

INTERNATIONAL EQUATORIAL ELECTROJET NEWS

AIM OF THE LETTER

The aim of this bi-monthly letter is to inform about the International Equatorial Electrojet Year project in the Europe-Africa sector.

MAGNETOTELLURIC NETWORK

We have started setting up the chain of 10 magnetotelluric stations. We hope to have it fully operating by November. The stations will be controlled from DAKAR via an Argos beacon network. The ground team will be based at BAMAKO (Mali). The exact location of the northern sites, not all fully decided, will re-use previous ORSTOM network's sites.

The observatory at KORHOGO (Ivory Coast)

We are re-installing the available buildings on the KORHOGO site. The ionosonde is presently being set up.

Fabry-Perot Interferometer

Thanks to Mr. Jacques PAPET-LEPINE (vice-Director, CNET LANNION B) the funding for putting up the University College London Fabry-Perot Interferometer at KORHOGO has been granted by CNET-LANNION. The experiments is due to be shipped to Ivory Coast next November.

The CEA radar-sonde will also open the IEEY in West Africa by a two months campaign, January and February 1993. A further campaign is programmed a few months later at the LAMTO CEA base.

LETTI radar

The funding of this multi-function probe (projected at KORHOGO) is still pending.

A final decision is expected before the end of November 1992. If it is granted we will open an African HF telecommunication development Center at KORHOGO.

Tamanrasset observatory (Algeria)

Mr. Jean HENRY (CNET) is commissined to Tamanrasset before the end of 1992 to improve the ionosonde operation there. Funding from CNET-LANNION of 66 kF is necessary.

By the end of July 1992 an automatic IPGS magnetometer has been set up at TAMANRASSET as part of the INTERMAGNET network.

International network stations

The two CNET ionosondes at OUAGADOUGOU (Burkina Faso) and DAKAR (Senegal) are included in permanent operation ; Similarly the two magnetic bases at M'BOUR (Senegal) and BANGUI (Centre African Republic).

For the repairs on the Nigerian ILORIN ionosonde, the needed money still remains to be obtained.

FUNDING

We have been resuming discussions with several agencies who might finance the following needed items :

Setting up the LETTI Radar

Computer servicing

Scientific secretariat

Equipment repairs and running costs

We have contacted various authorities :

- Ministry of cooperation

- INSU (National Institut for the Sciences of the Universe, CNRS)

- MRDI (Intern. Miss. Rel. Dev.) CNRS

OPERATION'S MANAGEMENT

* Ousmeini Fambitakoye has moved to ABIDJAN (Ivory Coast) to coordinate the ground work.

His address is : Representation ORSTOM

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* Fabrice JULLIEN (Ecole Normale Supérieure des Télécommunication, Paris) is spending three months in Ivory Coast to assist Arsène KOBÉA and Emile KONE (ABIDJAN University) managing the Korhogo setting up phase.

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* Jacques VASSAL (ORSTOM-DAKAR), is supervising the installation of the magnetotelluric chain. For the four sites in Ivory Coast he will be assisted by K. BOKA and V. DOUMOYA, at ABIDJAN University.

DATA BASE

A data base for the IEEY African Section has been decided. It will contain the routine schedule data for the entire world-routine program duration, and the data acquired during the intensive observation phase (I.O.P.).

It will be filled up gradually all along the IEEY.

The standards for the various data will be discussed at the IEEY working sessions of the Brazil Meeting this October.

VISITS TO PARIS

During September we have received Dr. SASTRI (India) and Drs. da COSTA and BARETTO (Brazil).

FPI INTERFEROMETER

Implications of the various participants

The IEE version of the Interferometer is the 9 simultaneous sights model, 8 times 45° azimuths plus one zenithal view. It was tested with Dr. REES by F. JULLIEN last August in England. F. JULLIEN has written a technical notice in French for the KORHOGO users (Total cost for UCL : 1,5 MF).

UCL provides the Interferometer its electronics and its software, has trained F. JULLIEN, will take care of the transport LONDON-PARIS, and will service the instrument annually.

CNET-LANNION is lending a PC computer, provides additional equipment control meters ; it secures customs clearance to ABIDJAN and the refitting of the measuring room in the Korhogo building.

IEEY manages the collection of equipments and their transit from PARIS-TOUSSUS to ABIDJAN via ROISSY (total cost ~ 50kF, + 5 kF per year of operation, financed by CNET-LANNION B).