

EMWoG Telephone Conference Call
Thursday April 11, 2006, 2.00-3.15 pm EDT
Minutes and Action Items

Present: Phil Wannamaker, Gary Egbert, Dean Livelybrooks, Steve Park, Rob Evans, Adam Schultz, Shane Ingate (quorum achieved).

Apologies: Martyn Unsworth

Minutes from March 23 telecon were edited, approved and will be posted on the EMScope web site.

Backbone Status

Schultz reports that permitting issues with the proposed site at USGS/Albuquerque Seismological Lab may not work within the budget and timeline. The issue arises from the telephone lines at the AFB have breakout boxes directly beneath high voltage power lines. This means that we must install our own 1000 m dipoles, and that these be trenched. The topsoil conditions indicate that walk-behind cable trenchers will be inadequate, and AFB and Isleta Pueblo requirements are that ordnance, environmental and archeological surveys be conducted. That part of the system on Isleta Pueblo land would also require separate permits. GS estimates the cost of permitting on its land to cost around \$20K, plus 12 months to execute. Group discussed changing the Backbone site to Socorro.

Given the electrically poor location of the PASSCAL Instrument Center, Wannamaker suggested Hilton Ranch on the east side of the Rio Grande, which was donated to NMT, and about 4-5 miles distant from campus. A broadband (0.005-500 s) site funded by DOE demonstrated that this is a quiet site, but without communications.

Action: Schultz to contact Aster of NMT to follow this up.

Joint TA and MT Test

Bob Busby has approved the joint test to be held at H03A near Albany, OR. This site is located on the OSU animal research station, with Dr. Males as the contact.

Action: Schultz to establish contact with Males.

Group engaged in a discussion on remote referencing for H03A. SAO at Parkfield was suggested, but this would be a poor reference at higher frequencies. Wannamaker has 2 LIMS in SW CO near the UT border that will be pulled in mid-May. The use of Hilton Ranch as a reference for a wideband survey in SE CA suggests that such a separation still should allow good referencing.

Group agrees that this test will demonstrate that MT equipment does not affect active seismic equipment. Group recommends placing the magnetometer 15-25 m from the TA telemetry mast, acquire 2 days of data, then move the magnetometer 100 m from the mast and collect 2 days of data.

Group suggested a full station deployment; if the site is quiet and permits allow, Group recommends making this a Backbone site, in lieu of the proposed site in E. Oregon. Test should be run for a month as a part of the Pilot Project, and a decision for transfer could be made after that.

Sample Rates

Group continued its discussion on sample rates. Park indicated that the UCLA upper atmosphere physicists require only 1 Hz data; 20 Hz is required for studying the Schumann Resonance. Given the inability of the NIMS to sample faster than 4 Hz, group indicated that 1 Hz sampling is fine, and is consistent with the procurement requirements.

The advantages of 1 Hz sample rates is that field memory, maintenance and communications costs are reduced, and that current software can process 1 Hz data. Group did discuss whether it would be better to have disparate sample rates for Backbone and transportable systems. Having the same sample rate would enable both systems to be inter-mixed when dealing with off-site repair.

Action: Schultz to contact Narod to determine if the NIMS could be toggled between 1 and 8 Hz.

Procurement

Ingate reports that an order for 7 systems has been placed with Narod. Narod indicates that he is on track for delivery of the first 20 systems in the Autumn, but that the last 7 systems may not be delivered until 2Q07. Ingate also reported that the original order was corrected to include only 2 (not 20) additional telluric amplifiers.

Group discussed procurement of water-tight cases for the transportable system. Group feels that the expense of cases, connectors etc would be a significant impact on costs, estimated at around \$1500-\$2000 per system. Group recommends that the Narod cases are watertight, and that heavy (3-mil) garbage bags are adequate to seal the batteries and magnetometer.

Transportable Pilots

Group discussed additional members on RFP evaluation. Group proposed Ian Ferguson (U. Manitoba), with Jim Craven (GSC) as alternate. David Simpson requires Busby and Woolley on the evaluation. Ingate says that signed CoIs are required, and will send it out this week.

Group also discussed Mexican involvement, and suggested Jose Romo of CICESE.

Ingate says that RFPs were made public last April 6. Questions submitted by potential bidders should be answered and made public on the USArray web site by 4/14/06.

Action: Ingate will prepare draft answers to the questions for EMWoG review.

Group discussed other experiments on-going in Oregon. Gene Humphries has EarthScope funds for work in E. OR. Randy Keller and Rick Carlson have Continental Dynamics (Cascadia) funds for 2 separate studies in OR. Group suggests providing these

PI names to the ESMT-PSP contractor, but that the decision to work with them will be at the contractor's discretion.

Group feels that a delegation should visit the winning contractor(s) before field work commences, to review their project execution plan, and provide coordination information. Livelybrooks should attend these visit(s).

Planning for other states

Map has not yet been drawn.

Meetings:

- SSA 1906 Earthquake meeting, San Francisco CA, April 18-22.
- IRIS CoCom/BoD, San Francisco CA, May 3-5.
- USAAC meeting, Socorro NM, May 16-17.
- USArray Review and EFEC meeting, Socorro NM, May 17-18.
- USArray/MT short course, Tucson AZ, June 7.
- IRIS Workshop, Tucson AZ, June 8-10.

Next Telecon:

- Apr 25, 2-3 pm EDT.