Observatory Report from Effelsberg

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1. The new 8.4 GHz receiver has not yet been installed on the telescope but it is now planned to support the "R&D" wide frequency range at X-band.
2. A vacuum switch has been installed on the MK4 terminal to permit both thick and thin tape operation.
3. The tape drive electronics of the MK4 recorder is being upgraded to VLBA style, to permit its use as a second recorder with the VLBA terminal, and to increase its reliability. This is planned for March 1999.
4. An additional 4 BBCs have been ordered for the VLBA terminal, to bring the total to 8, making better compatibility for joint observations with the VLBA. An upgrade of the VLBA formatter is also planned, to permit dual-recorder ("double burst mode") operation together with the VLBA.
5. Replacement of the outer antenna panels with perforated aluminium panels has now been completed.
6. The "friend of VLBI" in Effelsberg (Reinhard Schulze) will retire in the middle of this year. It is planned to appoint a new person to support VLBI observing.