

Transponder Standing Committee

Ulrich Schreiber, Jean-Marie Torre

This standing committee currently works predominantly on optical time transfer, as there are no other satellite targets for 1-way ranging tests available. It is still surprising that there is no close cooperation between the optical laser communication community and the laser ranging group existing. A proper combination of coded optical data streams and high resolution timing, could provide range information for deep space missions, which would have significant benefits for interplanetary navigation.

The ACES project is still in the stage of preparation. We still experience some difficulties in obtaining the permission to range to the ISS and the launch of the ACES package is still delayed because of technical problems with the Two-Way-Microwave-Time and Frequency Transfer link.

The Transponder Standing Committee asks the Russian and Chinese Network to open the time transfer capabilities on the GLONASS and BeiDou systems.

Finally it was made very clear how important time transfer for the SLR community is, since this is a very powerful technique to expose (and remove) systematic errors, which are otherwise not accessible.