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Metsähovi Geodetic Fundamental Station in Finland - new VGOS site, plans, and current status

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The Metsähovi Geodetic Fundamental Station is a key infrastructure of the Finnish Geospatial Research Institute (FGI). It is a Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS) core site, i.e., member of global network of geodetic stations which is used in maintaining global terrestrial and celestial reference frames, computing precise orbits of satellites, and for geophysical studies. Metsähovi is one of the few geodetic stations that has all major geodetic observing instrumentations co-located. These include satellite laser ranging (SLR), very long baseline interferometry (VLBI), global navigation satellite system (GNSS), superconducting and absolute gravimeters, and the DORIS beacon. The station has been operational since 1978, it contributes several global services of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), and due to its long existence it helps to retain sustainability in the maintenance of global reference frames.

In the autumn 2015 FGI obtained financial support to build new VGOS compatible radio telescope. This project is funded by Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the National Land Survey. The site chosen for a new telescope is within 100 m from other facilities of the Metsähovi geodetic station. We aim for a 12-13 m telescope and expect to complete the procurement process during the first half of 2016. The plan is to be operational by the end of 2018.

Primary author: Dr ZUBKO, Nataliya (Finnish Geospatial Research Institute)

Co-authors: Dr VIRTANEN, Jenni (Finnish Geospatial Research Institute); Prof. POUTANEN, Markku (Finnish Geospatial Research Institute); Dr JYRI, Näränen (Finnish Geospatial Research Institute); Mrs KALLIO, Ulla (Finnish Geospatial Research Institute); Mr SAARANEN, Veikko (Finnish Geospatial Research Institute)

Presenter: Dr ZUBKO, Nataliya (Finnish Geospatial Research Institute)

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