



Abstract Submission

Intended Session: Site Analysis

Preferred type of contribution: oral

Validation of the Yebes Laser Ranging Station (YLARA), current status and future upgrades

Beatriz Vaquero, José A. López-Pérez, José C. Rodríguez, Adolfo García-Marín, Álvaro Gómez

Yebes Observatory (IGN/CNIG), Guadalajara, Spain

Email: b.vaquero@oan.es

Abstract

Yebes Observatory (OY) has been working for years on the construction of a Fundamental Geodetic Station that fulfils the requirements of the GGOS project. Currently, the Observatory host a RAEGE/VGOS radio telescope in operation since 2016, GNSS receivers, a gravimetry laboratory (with absolute and relative superconducting gravimeters), time and frequency systems and a local tie network.

At the beginning of 2018, funds for the construction of an SLR station at Yebes, coming from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), were approved. Including this technique, OY will become a GGOS Core Site.

The main objective of YLARA station is to perform geodetic observations contributing to the ILRS network, but a second application is under implementation. The station will be equipped with a dedicated laser system for space debris observations.

The design of the system is based on the SLR stations classic design including a biaxial telescope with a Coudé focus and a conditioned room fully prepared for laser systems installation. However, the design also complies with the state of art of the SLR technique and the operation of the station for SLR observations is done using a laser package installed in a piggy back configuration. The system uses a two color laser, 532 nm and 1064 nm, with a repetition rate of 1 kHz. The detector package, with a C-SPAD and an IR-SPAD detector, is also installed on the telescope mount.

Regular observations started last April in order to overcome the ILRS quarantine and become part of the network as an active station.