

## First Light from Prototype Brazilian Decimetric Array

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The Prototype of Brazilian Decimetric Array (PBDA), consisting of 5 elements of 4-meter diameter mesh type parabolic antennas alt-az mounted, unique in Latin America, has been successfully developed. This array operates in the frequency range of (1.2-1.7) GHz and is presently located at longitude and latitude of campus of Brazilian National Space Research Institute at São José dos Campos (Longitude - 45° 51' 35" W, Latitude - 23° 12' 29" S). Each element is separated by 8 meter, thus having a base line of 32 meter. Operating frequency is 1.5 GHz. Each pair of the antenna was initially tested in analogical mode by observing Sun. The first light from this array was recorded on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2003. Later on digital correlator was interfaced with this array and ten base lines were tested for their fringe rates. Expected and observed fringe rates are almost within the limits. Fringes are recorded for four hours by tracking sun. A weak solar flare has been recorded. These observations will be presented. By June 2004 base lines of this array will be increased to 400x180 meter so as to have solar maps with resolution of ~ 3x4 minutes of arc.

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