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SLR Station 1884, Riga, Upgrading the Station Calibration Procedures

The calibration has been upgraded, with the goals of: * Better stability with reduced RMS. * Ease of use. * Minimizing the station range bias. Hardware upgrade: * Using a single-mode optical fiber (OF) for the calibration path. * Using the "spillover" green beam from the laser director mirror as a source for the start signal and the calibration path. * A new optical head shared by a new photo-diode and the calibration OF optics, installed on a common optical bench with the laser and the beam director mirror. * The OF is stored on a thermal box, the laser room is kept at a fixed temperature. * Selecting the calibration and tracking paths from the operator console. Software upgrade: * Fixed amplitude value compensation for all the data. * Observer bias-free automatic calibration filtering. * Using pre- and post-pass calibrations done within a 1-hour time window. The system delay constant(s): Our calibration path does not pass through the SLR telescope, we cannot not use the distance Invariant Point - External Target(s) for the system delay determination. The system delay constants are measured by alternating between a LRR at the telescope secondary mirror and the standard calibration path. The results are shown.