

The status of WLRS system automation

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The automated operation of an SLR system promises a higher data yield and lower operation costs, provided that the hardware stability and reliability are supporting autonomous tracking. Apart from the ranging functionality such a system also requires safety provisions as well as a far reaching monitoring and control system. In this talk we report on the software and hardware implementations for system automation of the Wettzell Laser Ranging System. This includes two fundamental processes, namely the satellite scheduling process and the system health controller. Furthermore we outline the architecture of our ranging safety system and our system monitoring processor. Finally we discuss a set of auxiliary sensors, which provide useful information during the observation process and allow an optimization of the ranging process.