

**VLBI-NETWORK "QUASAR":
A NEW ASTROMETRIC TOOL OF RUSSIA**

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VLBI-network "Quasar" is a Russian national project in advanced technology of the space-time positioning as a basic tool in central Eurasian region. The initial part of "Quasar"-network consists of three following sites: Svetloe (near St.Petersburg), Zelenchukskaya (the North Caucasus) and Bodary (near Lake Baikal). At the first two sites the 32-metres diameter antennas are mounted in the unit now. The completed sites, as far as possible, will be included into European and Asian VLBI-networks. The project "Quasar" is carried out by the Institute of Applied Astronomy of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St.Petersburg. As well as being the numerous scientific and technical research connected with practical realization of project, much work is in progress on astrometry, geodesy and geodynamics:

- operation under international geodetic programs (DORIS, GIG, WEGENER, BSL etc.),
- original data analysis (VLBI, SLR, GPS, LLR etc.),
- participation in the International Earth Rotation Service.