

13 Antenna Installation

The antennas will be installed and tested for acceptance by the contractor on the two antenna foundations comprising the 100 m baseline shown in Figure 12.2. The west foundation will be for the US contractor and the east foundation will be used by the European contractor. It currently appears likely that the two contractors will be on site at the same time but the 100 m separation should prevent them interfering with each other. Each contractor will be given an access road to a work area approximately 60 m square which will be under his control.

The US contractor currently plans to assemble the antenna directly on the foundation. The European contractor has indicated that he may wish to assemble major components of the antenna inside the VLA Antenna Assembly Building or Transporter Building, shown in Figure 12.1. It will be the contractor's responsibility to move these components to the assembly foundation. Use of these buildings must be coordinated with the VLA operations staff well ahead of time.

A number of pieces of NRAO equipment will be made available to the contractors for antenna assembly. These include 30 ton and 5 ton mobile cranes, 60 ton drop-deck trailer, man lifts and fork lifts. Access to a fully equipped machine shop will be available for making field modifications. All NRAO equipment must be operated by NRAO personnel.