

Laser ranging on space debris with the MeO station

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The MeO laser station has been recently adapted in order to track space debris. With a telescope of 1.54m in diameter, MeO is fundamentally well suited to track the moon and distant satellites. Ten non-cooperative objects have been tracked with a 2 Joules continuum laser linked to a low noise photo-detection system and also an optical camera during a 3 days campaign in March 2012. We obtained echoes for objects at distances between 840 km and 1800 km.

Because the system can be quickly operational, Laser ranging appears to be an interesting alternative to radar methods.

The presentation will introduce the technical developments and the observation obtained.