

Session 2 Historical Perspectives

- Henry Plotkin recalled the events that led up the first successful laser ranging event at GSFC, and the subsequent development of the NASA MOBLAS network;
- Chuck Lundquist presented the history of the early optical tracking program at SAO from the deployment of the Baker-Nunn Camera to the SAO Laser Network with its early steps in the development of the international network;
- George Veis presented the early recognition of the importance of the reference frame and the motivation for seeking greater accuracy through deploying the laser ranging systems;
- Francois Barlier gave the early history of the CNES laser ranging program and the close cooperation with SAO in the deployment of the international network;
- John Bosworth gave a brief on the Crustal Dynamics Program, although a NASA organized activity, relied in wide international participation for its success.
- Jim Faller reviewed the leadup, preparation, and success of the early Lunar Ranging Program and its legacy for future laser ranging including single photon detection and epoch timers