



There is probably some room for overall improvement in the feed cone and hub areas by using more gain stages and thus shorter, less lossy, line sections.

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Link_design_final_V5.fcd (&.pdf)

The values reported as "Tn ..." (calc fwd from ref) are referred to the S- or X-band reference plane at the hub-pedestal interface, and cover only noise generated by the system downstream of the ref planes.

The values reported as "Tsig ..." (calc fwd from ref) refer to the baseline noise level incident on the S- or X-band reference plane at the hub-pedestal interface, and represent only the processed input coming from upstream of the ref planes.

At X-band:
Overall S/N of ADC output is $\sim 36:1$ incl. est. ADC noise. "Sig" means the baseline noise available at the pedestal.
This is about 2.8% loss of S/N in path from pedestal input to ADC output.

Dan Werthimer suggests up to ~ 30 steps RMS in a clean (RFI-free) environment, but don't hesitate to drop to as low as 10 steps RMS when RFI is present. Clipping due to CW tones is very bad for astronomical signal processing.

At S-band:
Overall S/N of ADC output is $\sim 30:1$ incl. est. ADC noise. "Sig" means the baseline noise available at the pedestal.
This is about 3.3% loss of S/N in path from pedestal input to ADC output.

Smaller ADC drive and poorer S/N were a concession to greater anticipated RFI problems at S-band, but still fall within the range of Dan Werthimer's advice.