Remote control video camera for meteor observations

P. Koten (1), P. Spurny (1), J. Borovicka (1), S. Abe (2)

(1) Astronomical Institute, Ondrejov observatory, Ondrejov, Czech Republic, (2) Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Kobe University, Japan (koten@asu.cas.cz / Fax +420-323620263)

We are developing a new video system using the commercial off-the-shelf components, which is possible to be remotely controlled via internet. System is based on the Watec CCD camera, which is mounted on the steerable mounting. The mounting is connected to the video server with its own unique IP address. Web-based interface enables to remotely aim the camera to desired azimuth and elevation. The video signal is processed in real-time by a computer, which stores meteor sequences in a digital form. The main purpose of this experiment is to monitor the sky for the meteors over the year. Because this new system will operate within the reach of the photographic network, it is expected that it will provide simultaneous data for some fireballs, too. Due to better sensitivity and instant imaging mode of the used CCD camera we will be able to describe in more detail fragmentation processes of larger meteoroids as well as the beginning and terminal parts of the luminous trajectories of some meteors.