IVOA Full Meeting: FM32S

27 May 2009: 12.30 – 14.30 Strasbourg Time (EST)

Notes: FP and FG

Original: 27 May 2009

distribution to exec@ivoa.net

Present:

Christophe Arviset <Christophe.Arviset@esa.int>	CA	Euro-VO/ESA - *TCG*
Chenzhou Cui <ccz@bao.ac.cn>	CC	China-VO (partly)
Reinaldo De Carvalho	RDC	BRAVO
Dave De Young <deyoung@noao.edu>	DDY	NVO
Peppi Fabbiano	PF	NVO (partly)
Françoise Genova <genova@astro.u-strasbg.fr>	FG	F-VO
Bob Hanisch <hanisch@stsci.edu>	BH	NVO (partly)
Ajit Khembavi <akk@iucaa.ernet.in>	AK	India-VO (partly)
Andrew Lawrence <al@roe.ac.uk>	AL	AstroGrid
Gerard Lemson	GL	GAVO
Paolo Padovani <ppadovan@eso.org>	PP	Euro-VO/ESO
Fabio Pasian <pasian@ts.astro.it>	FP	VObs.it
David Schade <David.Schade@nrc.ca>	DS	CVO
Enrique Solano <esm@laeff.inta.es>	ESo	SVO

Apologies:

Fernando Comeron <fcomeron@eso.org>	FC	Euro-VO/ESO
Oleg Malkov <malkov@inasan.ru>	OM	RVO
Masatoshi Ohishi <masatoshi.ohishi@nao.ac.jp>	MO	JVO
Nic Walton <naw@ast.cam.ac.uk>	NW	AstroGrid
Joachim Wambsganss <jkw@ari.uni-heidelberg.de>	JW	GAVO
Roy Williams <roy@cacr.caltech.edu>	RW	NVO

There was no representation from the Aus-VO or Korea-VO projects – both currently inactive.

Glossary:

ArVO - Armenian VO	http://www.aras.am/arvo.htm
AstroGrid - UK VO initiative	http://www.astrogrid.org
Aus-VO - Australian Virtual Observatory	http://www.aus-vo.org
BRAVO - Brazil Virtual Observatory	
China-VO - Chinese Virtual Observatory	http://www.china-vo.org
CVO - Canadian Virtual Observatory	http://www1.cadc-ccda.hia-iha.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/cvo/
Euro-VO European Virtual Observatory	http://www.euro-vo.org
F-VO - VO-France	http://www.france-vo.org
GAVO - German Virtual Observatory	http://www.g-vo.org

HVO - Hungarian Virtual Observatory   http://hvo.elte.hu
VO-India - Indian Virtual Observatory   http://vo.iucaa.ernet.in/~voi/
VObs.it - The Italian Virtual Observatory   http://vobs.astro.it/
JVO - Japanese Virtual Observatory   http://jvo.nao.ac.jp/index-e.html
KVO - Korean Virtual Observatory   http://kvo.kao.re.kr
NVO - National Virtual Observatory (USA) http://www.us-vo.org
RVO - Russian Virtual Observatory   http://www.inasan.rssi.ru/eng/rvo/
SVO - Spanish Virtual Observatory   http://svo.laeff.inta.es
IVOA - International Virtual Observatory Alliance   http://www.ivoa.net

Agenda:
1. Roll Call and Agenda
2. Review of Actions and their current status
3. Report by Take-up Committee - DDY
4. Discussion on priorities - all
5. WG issues - CA
6. Proposal for a group on "VO implementation" - DS
7. Report by Liaison Committee - DDY
8. Future Interop meetings
9. AOB
10. Summary of Actions

NEXT MEETING: *date TBD*

1. Roll Call and Agenda Items
The participants - as listed above - introduced themselves, with apologies noted.
The agenda of the meeting was **APPROVED**.

2. Review of Actions and their current status
ACTION FM32-7: CA: distribute the minutes of the 12 May TCG meeting.
CLOSED
ACTION FM32-10.1: DDY: report to Exec on the meeting of the Take-Up Committee.
CLOSED during the Exec meeting.
ACTION FM32-10.2: DDY: report to Exec on the meeting of the Liaison Committee.
CLOSED during the Exec meeting.

3. Report by Take-up Committee
DDY reported that the Take-Up noted a major need for better data accessibility within the VO, since it is felt to be not adequate for users at an intermediate level of sophistication. A proposal has been prepared by CA, DDY, PP and DS identifying a prioritisation path for the IVOA to follow. It is based on 3 elements: a) TAP to be finalised within summer 09 as a powerful tool for data access; b) generation of a "Use Cases Group" planned to produce a set of example queries at a level of completeness sufficient to ensure that "good enough" data queries are possible; c) Observation Data Model and UTypes to be brought to a higher priority and aimed to be finalized by May 2010 Interop. To move forward, this proposal needs the support from major data producers.

ACTION FM32S-3: DDY to prepare a written report to Exec on the meeting of the Take-Up Committee.

4. Discussion on priorities
A discussion followed, based on the above agenda item. Everyone agreed in principle with the approach, as reported by DDY. The need to involve the technical experts in the discussion was noted. The sense of urgency in speeding up uptake by the community was noted as well. An expansion of the basic agreement reached under item 7 of the previous Exec meeting (a looping mechanism between the Exec and the TCG is necessary: the Exec sets requirements, the TCG recommends priorities from the technical point of view, the Exec approves) was reached.
In particular, the process is expected to function as follows: use cases set requirements vs standards and protocols, which shall be pushed to an acceptable level with the support of the projects, which are committed to collaborate in this effort. Use cases shall then be refined and prioritised. This mechanism shall not follow a waterfall approach, but rather be iterative and interactive, especially in the definition of requirements. Furthermore, it shall not force the WGs to derail from their "normal" way of working: it is focussing on additional "non-usual" prioritisation work. Several WGs, in particular DAL and DM, will be involved. Data centres should also be involved to define the level which can be implemented. The above approach was **AGREED**.
ACTION FM32S-4.1: DDY (with **CA**, **PP**, **DS**) to prepare a written draft recommendation on the prioritisation path for the IVOA, to be submitted to Exec.
ACTION FM32S-4.2: DS to prepare and send some basic use cases for the VO.

5. WG issues
CA reported that no specific issues or problems were identified up to now during the WG/IG sessions. It was noted that consensus has been reached on TAP; BH noted that decision on one possible issue has been deferred to VOTable WG. It was a general feeling that the VOTable WG will never become really dormant, but rather move to a "maintenance mode".
FP asked that a list of interdependencies and interrelations among standards be produced.
CA reminded that some of WG Chairs will see their three-years term expiring shortly.
ACTION FM32S-5.1: CA to ensure that a list of interdependencies and interrelations among standards is included in the next IVOA Roadmap document.
ACTION FM32S-5.2: ALL to send in confidence to FP names for Chairs of the VOQL and Registry WGs.

6. Proposal for a group on "VO implementation"
DS's proposal for the creation of a WG on "VO implementation" (see item 12 of previous Exec meeting) was withdrawn.

7.Liaison Committee
DDY noted that the HEP, Climate and Bio-Informatics communities are being followed, although no formal contact with the IVOA has been made yet. Possible collaborations will continue to be pursued.
FG noted that Marie-Lise Dubernet leads an EU project on Atomic and Molecular databases (VAMDC): There are good interactions with the Solar and Solar-Terrestrial communities in Europe, with well-identified contacts. The situation is not as clear in the US. As soon as appropriate contacts are identified, it is envisaged to form a coordination group (Liaison Group?) with the Solar and Solar-Terrestrial communities.

ACTION FM32S-7.1: DDY to prepare a written report to Exec on the meeting of the Liaison Committee.
ACTION FM32S-7.2: DDY to pursue contacts with the US Solar and Solar-Terrestrial communities.
ACTION FM32S-7.3: FP to poll the Exec on the opportunity of creating a new class of group (Liaison Group) in charge of contacts with communities interested in sharing experiences with the IVOA.

8. Future Interop meetings
It was **AGREED** that the May 2010 Interop will be held in Victoria, Canada.
It was **AGREED** that the Oct-Nov 2010 Interop will be held in Japan.

9. AOB
None.

10. Summary of New Actions
ACTION FM32S-3: DDY to prepare a written report to Exec on the meeting of the Take-Up Committee.
ACTION FM32S-4.1: DDY (with **CA**, **PP**, **DS**) to prepare a written draft recommendation on the prioritisation path for the IVOA, to be submitted to Exec.
ACTION FM32S-4.2: DS to prepare and send some basic use cases for the VO.
ACTION FM32S-5.1: CA to ensure that a list of interdependencies and interrelations among standards is included in the next IVOA Roadmap document.
ACTION FM32S-5.2: ALL to send in confidence to FP names for Chairs of the VOQL and Registry WGs.
ACTION FM32S-7.1: DDY to prepare a written report to Exec on the meeting of the Liaison Committee.
ACTION FM32S-7.2: DDY to pursue contacts with the US Solar and Solar-Terrestrial communities.
ACTION FM32S-7.3: FP to poll the Exec on the opportunity of creating a new class of group (Liaison Group) in charge of contacts with communities interested in sharing experiences with the IVOA.

The meeting closed at 14:15