IVOA Exec Full Meeting: FM38

06 December 2010: 17:00-19:00 Nara, Japan

Notes: MA
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distribution to exec@ivoa.net

Present:

Mark Allen	<mark.allen@astro.unistra.fr>	MA	*Secretary*
Christophe Arviset	<Christophe.Arviset@esa.int>	CA	ESA-VO/*TCG*
Francoise Genova	<genova@cluster.u-strasbg.fr>	FG	F-VO
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Severin Gaudet	<Severin.Gaudet@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca>	SG	TCG
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Sebastien Derriere	<sebastien.derriere@astro.unistra.fr>	SD	Semantics
Mireille Louys	<mireille.louys@unistra.fr>	ML	DM
Herve Wozniak	<herve.wozniak@astro.unistra.fr>	HW	Theory
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Apologies

Oleg Malkov	<malkov@inasan.ru>	OM	RVO
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Glossary:

ArVO - Armenian VO	http://www.aras.am/Arvo/arvo.htm
AstroGrid - UK VO initiative	http://www.astrogrid.org

Aus-VO - Australian Virtual Observatory http://aus-vo.org.au/
BRAVO - Brazil Virtual Observatory   http://www.lna.br/bravo/
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
VAO - Virtual Astronomical 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 (MA)
2. Minutes of TM37 (PP)
3. Review of Actions (MA)
4. Project Reports [Significant Events Only]
5. Report of the TCG meeting and TCG status (CA)
6. Reports by the WG (WG Chairs)
7. Approval of new IVOA Recommendation(s) [Standing Item]
8. IVOA Interops: attendance and frequency (all)
9. Data Centre review of IVOA standards (BH, all)

A. Appendices - reports from VO projects, WGs and IGs, see the wiki at:
   http://www.ivoa.net/cgi-bin/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/IvoaExecMeetingFM38

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 9 December 2010 12:30-14:00. Meeting room 3, Nara, Japan

1. Roll Call and Agenda
The participants' names were recorded. The agenda was modified to allow discussion of 'IVOA Interops: attendance and frequency' and 'Data Centre review of IVOA standards' earlier in the meeting. Other items were scheduled be addressed in the Thursday meeting.

2. Previous Minutes

The TM37 minutes were **APPROVED.**

3. Status of Actions
The actions (Review of Actions) were read and a number of the items were discussed.

Actions TM37-10 and TM37-11 were discussed together

ACTION TM37-10: MO, as chair of Liaison Committee, should extend invitation to Prof. Kasaba to participate in a joint technical session with IPDA at the Nara Interop
CLOSED: Prof. Kasaba is registered for the Nara interop

ACTION TM37-11: CA and POC to start planning a joint technical session with IPDA at the Nara Interop
CLOSED: Frontrow sessions planned with IPDA, CA to report on cancelled technical session

Despite efforts, and initial plans by CA and MO it was not possible to arrange a joint technical session with IPDA due to availability of the relevant technical people, and subsequently Prof. Kasaba is not attending the meeting.

ACTION TM35-2: FP Coordinate formation of a liaison group to represent IVOA in OGF.
ONGOING: **FP**

FP indicated that he is still waiting on information about how to form a group

ACTION FM36S-5 All - provide feedback on web site design via the wiki page for the revised website design
(http://www.ivoa.net/cgi-bin/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/RevisedWebsiteDesign)
ONGOING

This action has been ongoing for some time without updates in previous meetings so AL is requested to report on it (new **ACTION FM38-1**)

4. Project Reports
Reports for China-VO, VAO, RVO, VObsIt appear on the meeting wiki page.

FG reported that EuroVO-ICE project has started and among other activities will run another VO school.

BH will outline VAO work in the 'Frontrow' session on Friday. VAO will have a presence at the AAS meeting.

MG announced that RW has left VAO to work for LIGO. RW will stay involved with VO (and is VOEvent vice chair for the next year) and in LIGO will be involved in developing VO event packets for gravitational wave events.

GL indicated that GAVO has submitted a new proposal which would involve about 9 FTEs, and the result of which should be known in March.

5. TCG Report

CA reported that travel to the TCG meeting was disturbed by strikes and weather, so the TCG meeting was held in the afternoon only with the morning session cancelled. With the reduced time the schedule was limited. The TCG considered the three priority science

cases from the process and status point of view. Some issues related to theory standards were also discussed.

The core elements of the units and utypes as required by the science cases have not progressed due to lack of resources, so the TCG is bringing this to the exec to see what can be done about having resources allocated to it. There was some concern units and utypes were being worked in multiple standards, and that there may be a risk that these do not converge.

Different approaches to this problem were discussed, and it was agreed that meetings at this interop could address it. **ACTION FM38-2 ML, SD, RP, MG, BH** to arrange a splinter meeting to discuss units and utypes.

6. WG Reports

Apps, DM, GWS, VOEvent, Theory IG reports are available on meeting page

Apps - TMcG reported that SAMP 1.2 has gone through RFC and is ready to be recommended. This went quickly through the process, which is positive in this case.

DAL - PD reported that efforts are currently on PQL, and a base standards called DALI. Some minor inconsistencies with some DAL standards are being addressed.

DM - ML reported that the ObsTAP document is finished and includes some tables that show how the standards can be used. RFC for ObsTAP is expected just after this interop. Efforts related to SEDs have resulted in two documents. Parts of these documents are complementary, but it was **AGREED** that discussion needs to happen at this meeting. This is already scheduled in DM sessions and the Science case SED session - Jesus Salgado, and Jonathan McDowell will make presentation in the DM1 session. There has also been some work on the Charactarisation DM to allow the description of variation of sensitivity within a FoV, and that this is related to the SED work because the Char DM (level 4) is also the appropriate place to describe the transmission curve of a filter.

GWS - MG reported good progress with UWS which is in the review period. For VOSI changes have been implemented from the May RFC and it is ready for TCG review this week. A new draft of VOSpace 2.2 will be discussed with it expected to enter the standards process in January.

Registry - Need for a new Chair was identified.
ACTION FM38-3 PP email exec for proposal for the next Registry WG Chair.

Semantics - SD reported that work had been done on vocabularies for theory. Other active topics are ontologies, where there is interest for mapping between different object classification schemes. Also 'linking data', which is a practical implementation of the semantic web, with Norman Gray doing some work toward this.

VOEvent - MG reported on behalf of RS and RW. Input is needed on VOEvent, from people outside the core group working on the standard. There was a successful tutorial at ADASS, and a 'Hot Wiring the Transient Universe' book will soon be available. The WG is waiting for VOEvent 2.0 to become stable before working on the registry extensions.

DCP - AA not present but detailed program prepared for this meeting.

KDD - Sessions cancelled at this meeting

Theory - HW indicated the detailed report on meeting page. There was an open Theory meeting in Strasbourg. There is a call for greater participation in such meetings.

7. Approval of new IVOA Recommendation(s)

Managed via email prior to the meeting

Original Agenda items 8 and 9 re-scheduled to Thursday meeting

8. IVOA Interops: attendance and frequency

PP outlined background and CC's email bringing up issue of biannual interop schedule. PP presented a graph of interop meeting attendance since 2002, indicating coincidences with the ADASS meetings. Participation has peaked, and is now back to the same level as Cambridge 2003 meeting, and steadily decreasing.

Issues affecting attendance were discussed, including changes in NVO/VAO activity, and AstroGrid finishing. Also logistics and timing of individual meetings were noted as factors. CA noted that current meetings have fewer parallel sessions, and questioned the need for two 5-day meetings.

PP raised the issue of attendance demographics, such that having meetings in North America of Europe would mean less overall travel costs. The numbers shown were based on the IVOA mailing list, and BH suggested that the same statistics could be done on people actually attending meetings.

FP noted that 'regional' meetings help expand the interest of local people using the VO.

DS emphasized the importance of face-to-face time at interop meetings, and the concentration of work in the lead up to interops. Also that some smaller focused non-interop meetings have been used with good results.

FG noted that the IVOA is evolving, with new pre-interop TCG meeting having an important place, and science priorities process developing.

It was **AGREED** that is is necessary to maintain two meetings each year, and to look at options for shortening the meetings.

FP indicated that a shortened Naples meeting (May 2011) should be possible (ending on the Thursday instead of the Friday). **ACTION FM38-4 FP** to report on possibilities for shorter Interop meeting in Naples.

Discussion on issues of parallel sessions, side meetings, and possibly strengthening the connection with ADASS meetings. It was noted that the interops are already being mostly held in North America and Europe so no new action to take.

11. Data Centre Input

BH explained that the issue of data centre input to IVOA standards came up in the context of ADEC (Astrophysics Data Centre Executive Council), with some data centres having concerns that they didn't have visibility in the process, and as it relied on their resources, they want a chance to contribute. BH questioned whether this is just a US issue.

TMcG emphasized the time and resources required for uptake (putting UCDs on HEASARC tables took almost 1 FTE), and that significant uptake is needed to make it worth the investment.

The representation of data centres via the national projects was discussed. FG noted the DCA project in Europe built a community of data centres. The complex structure of some data centres were mentioned. It was **AGREED** that representation of data centres was best done via the IVOA projects.

The need to coordinate with future large missions was identified. BH noted that LSST and PanStarrs are affiliates to the VAO, and that VAO has some responsibility for helping them to have VO in their planning processes.

The need for templates, and tools for implementing VO standards was discussed. The need to have more implementation issues discussed in interop WG sessions was also emphasized.

ACTION FM38-5 TCG next meeting should discuss implementation and validation tools for data centres to takeup VO Standards.

Review of Action Items

New Actions:

ACTION FM38-1: AL to provide an update on the development of the IVOA web pages.

ACTION FM38-2 ML, SD, RP, MG, BH to arrange a splinter meeting to discuss units and utypes.

ACTION FM38-3 PP email exec for proposal for the next Registry WG Chair

ACTION FM38-4 FP to report on possibilities for shorter Interop meeting in Naples.

ACTION FM38-5 TCG next meeting should discuss implementation and validation tools for data centres to take up VO Standards.