

**NRC-CNRC**

*Herzberg Institute  
of Astrophysics*



# ObsTAP project Basic Data Query and Access

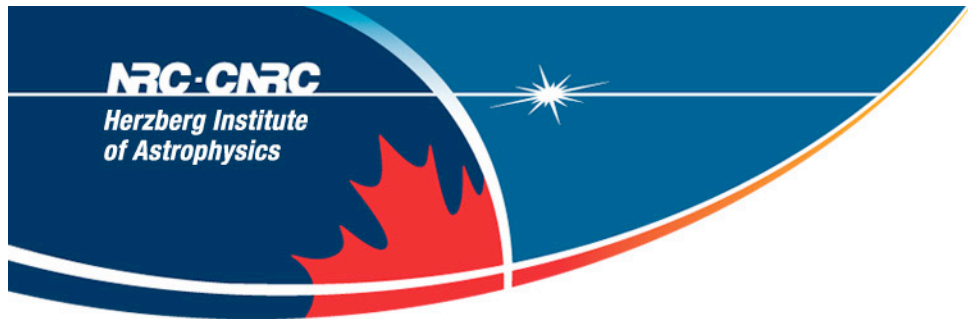
**David Schade**  
Canadian Virtual Observatory  
Canadian Astronomy Data Centre



National Research  
Council Canada

Conseil national  
de recherches Canada

**Canada**



# ObsTAP Project

- Take-Up Committee Recommendation: Data Access not sufficient
- Executive Committee approval of ObsTAP work (Strasbourg)
  - Combine TAP with Data models to create data query and access service
- Combine TAP with Data Model and other work >>> ObsTAP
  - Gather Science Use Cases
  - Transform Use Cases into requirements for Data Model
  - Work to produce the data model
  - Involve implementers
  - Define ObsTAP implementation details
  - Pursue wide implementation among data providers



# ObsTAP Project

## A Success Story?

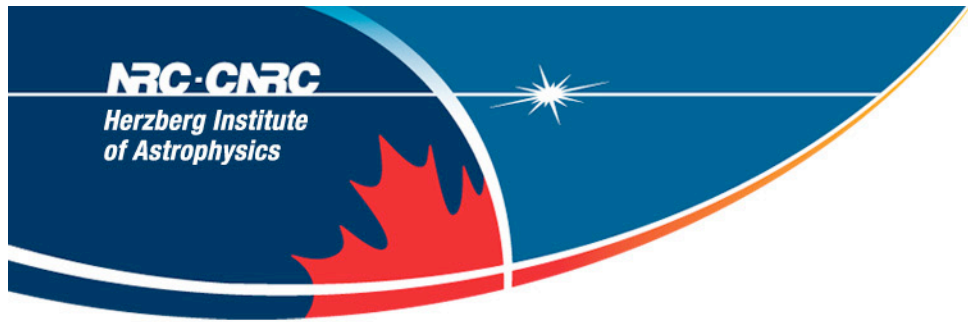
- **PROCESS:** we established a process to define a worthwhile science goal and to pursue its implementation
- Engaged scientists on Executive and outside of VO
- Brought scientists into the development process
- Brought implementers into the development process
- Quickly converged (almost) on an appropriate functional data model
- Have had much exploration of the implementation details



# ObsTAP Project

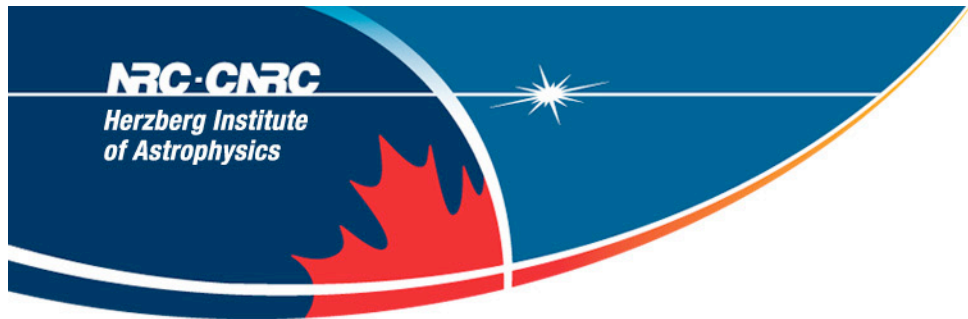
## Positive lessons learned

- **After 7 years there exists a foundation of good technical VO work that is ready for exploitation**
- Working Groups welcome science input and science focus
- Technical and science teams can work together effectively
- We are able to build on existing work and design and implement a new service in one year



## ObsTAP Project

This project represents a real success story that we should be proud of



# ObsTAP Project

## Not-so-positive lessons learned

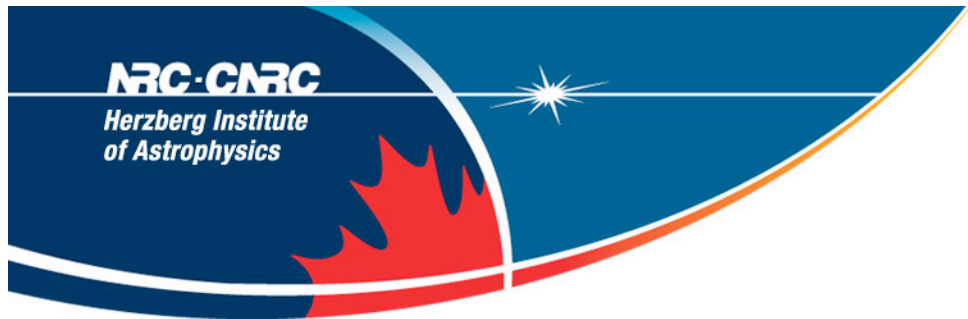
- The actual amount of resources that IVOA can direct at a problem is not very large
- We are very ambitious
- Two Options:

**Bring more resources to bear on IVOA work**

**OR**

**Lower our ambitions**

- “Good Enough” standards to support “Good Enough” services



# ObsTAP Project

## The way forward

- Maintain a focus on building usage of VO services by astronomers
- We need to complete this project and implementation within one year
- ObsTAP needs to produce documents and pass as a recommendation
- We can do this if we agree that this is high priority
- We need to move on to the catalogue problem
  - Integrate catalogue and data query and access services
- We need to complete at least one major “take-up” project each year

**If we cannot achieve this goal then I fear for the future of IVOA**