

Concluding Remarks

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Chair, IVOA Executive Committee



Exec Meeting Highlights

- Ukraine's application was discussed by the Exec and accepted
- Status of the Standing Committee on Science Priorities (Mark's talk)
- The VO in the current global economic situation:
 - ✓ difficult times, which are also impacting IVOA work
 - discussion on possible changes to Interop structure
 - ✓ VO's strength is that it does not require new telescopes or missions
 - ✓ IVOA Exec will assemble list of future projects/missions which are planning to use VO as part of their day-to-day operations



Exec Meeting Highlights (continued)

- New IVOA Exec chair: Ajit Kembhavi
- New IVOA Exec vice chair: David Schade
- Both are effective as of the end of this meeting



This meeting

- First ever *IVOA Standards Implementation* session
- First CSP project (ObsCore) has turned into ObsCoreDM submitted on Wednesday to the Exec for approval!
- Second one (SED builder) is proceeding somewhat slowly ... but progress appears to be at the horizon and already many SED applications!
- TAP is being implemented!
- Many discussions, during and outside of the sessions
- My (personal) feeling:
 - ✓ standards for most fundamental needs of astronomical community are *almost* done
 - ✓ next high level goal: get large projects and surveys *directly* involved in IVOA and have them implement



IVOA standards

IVOA Interop, Pune, October 17 - 21, 2011 - IVOA Status - 4



A “big picture” perspective

- Good news:
 - ✓ 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics to three astronomers
 - ✓ ALMA early science
 - ✓ ESA Euclid mission approved
 - ✓ European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT) “on the verge” of being approved (and other ELTs making progress)
 - ✓ Square Kilometre Array (SKA) site selection to take place in February 2012



A “big picture” perspective

- Less good news:
 - ✓ VAO funding cut by 50% (NSF) and $\geq 33\%$ (NASA)
 - ✓ Funding for some astronomical projects is also being cut; some others (JWST) are at risk
- The VO should highlight the importance of the data we already have!
- Very important to:
 - ✓ stay focused
 - ✓ complete all major standards
 - ✓ make sure they can be implemented (feedback)
 - ✓ stay tuned to the needs of the astronomical community at large (researchers and projects)



- May 21 – 25, 2012: Urbana, IL, USA
- October (TBC) 2012: São Paulo, Brazil



- Thanks to all of you, the Programme Organizing Committee and to the Local Organizing Committee, especially

