

France VO – Report May 2005-July 2005

Françoise Genova, 18 July 2005

Among recent France-VO actions:

(1) Results of the census of VO activities in French laboratories

More details have been computed on the results of the census of VO-related projects in French laboratories. As explained in the [previous France-VO report](#), teams willing to develop a project in the VO context have been asked to fill a form, and to transmit it to France VO through their laboratory director. 45 answers were received, and nearly all laboratories sent at least one answer. This bottom-up approach to identify possible VO services confirms that many kinds of services can be provided to the VO: access to observation archives; tools for data management, data processing, visualization; added-value data bases; ‘software instruments’ to tackle specific scientific questions; ‘thematic portals’; theory/modelling services providing access to modelling results or allowing astronomers to run models; etc. Services proposed by French teams take advantage of local expertise on instrument hardware, data pipelines, scientific topics, and are at very different levels in terms of manpower, from reference disciplinary data centres to services in national and international niches.

(2) Preparation of the ‘Thematic school ’ The Virtual Observatory: A new tool for scientists – 7-9 November 2005, Obernai

France-VO organizes a ‘Thematic School’ supported by CNRS in November 2005, to discuss VO scientific use cases. The following topics will be addressed: Interstellar medium/ALMA; Stellar physics; Galaxies; cosmology/modelling; study of planets; Sun-Earth relations. The first announcement (in French) can be found at <http://www.france-vo.org/twiki/bin/view/ASOVFrance/EcoleOV2005>. Registration will be closed on 12 September 2005

(3) Participation to international VO meetings

France-VO encourages participation from French laboratories in IVOA Interoperability activities. An increasing number of teams have [presented talks](#) at the [IVOA May 2005 Interoperability meeting](#) (Kyoto) - 14 participants from French laboratories on a total number of 79 registered participants. Several groups from different laboratories have been building national and international collaborations on the definition of interoperability standards in their fields of expertise.

France-VO also supported attendance from French laboratories participants to the [Euro-VO Workshop](#) – 23 participants from French laboratories, among which 7 tutors and lecturers, on a total of 116 participants.

(4) Mailing list for technical discussion

A [mailing list](#) for technical discussion among French VO developers has been set up by Paris Observatory, in complement to the IVOA mailing lists.

(5) Collaboration with IT laboratories

A proposal aiming at supporting the implementation of the French VO data and service grid and at organizing the collaboration with French IT laboratories has been submitted to an AO of the new Agence Nationale pour la Recherche (ANR - National Agency for Research). Strong competition is expected.

(6) International collaboration

Representatives of several international VO projects took part in the '[Grid Workshop](#)', organized on 7 June 2005 at CDS with support from the [MDA](#) project (Data Masses in Astronomy).

(7) Presentations of France-VO activities

French VO activities have been presented by M.-L. Dubernet (Paris Observatory) at the annual meeting of the French Astronomy and Astrophysics Society (28 June 2005).