

IVOA Meeting 1: Garching

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13 June 2002, 17:00-20:30 GMT

Notes: NAW

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Present:

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Glossary

AVO - Astrophysical Virtual Observatory
CDS - Centre de Données astronomiques de Strasbourg
CVO - Canadian Virtual Observatory
eAA - eAstronomy Australia
GAVO - German Virtual Observatory
NVO - National Virtual Observatory
RVO - Russian Virtual Observatory

IVOA - International Virtual Observatory Alliance

Notes: NAW

Summary.

This meeting was called to agree the formation of the International Virtual Observatory Alliance, and ratify the draft constitution as previously circulated by Hanisch, Lawrence and Quinn (The International Virtual Observatory Alliance: A Mission and Roadmap Statement 2002-2005, June 10, 2002). The IVOA formally welcomed a number of national VO initiatives.

This evening meeting took place over dinner in Garching after the Thursday sessions of the ESO/ESA/NASA/NSF Astronomy Conference: TOWARD AN INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL OBSERVATORY (see <http://www.eso.org/gen-fac/meetings/vo2002/>).

Note: For numbering purposes this meeting is full meeting number one - represented as FM1. Subsequent Telecons will be numbered TM#. Previous IVOA meetings will be referred to by date.

1. The International Virtual Observatory Alliance

1.1 The IVOA was being formed to for the reasons outlined in the 'Mission Statement'. It was noted that 'inclusion' was a major driver. To this end, all currently funded or active VO projects were currently represented within the IVOA. However, it was noted that contact should be made with national bodies who might develop an interest in this area.

ACTION FM1-1.1: BH - report to next telecon: Contact suitable representatives in Japan, Chile, China and South Africa as to possible participation in the IVOA. This list is not exhaustive.

1.2 It was AGREED that the IVOA will focus on those problems of common relevance to the participating projects. In addressing these issues small specific working groups would be formed.

1.3 The IVOA Roadmap was discussed. It was AGREED that a major demonstration of capability would be presented at the Jan 2003 AAS with the US-VO leading. However, all IVOA partners would be mentioned, with an acknowledgement being made of these other international efforts.

1.4 It was AGREED that the other partners should organise equivalent releases of added capabilities around key conferences/meetings of their communities. It was noted that one such meeting could be the National Astronomy Meeting in the UK, Easter 2003.

2. IVOA Organisation

2.1 It was AGREED that BH (as nominated by PQ and accepted by ALL) would be IVOA Chair for a period of one year.

2.2 It was AGREED that PQ (accepted by ALL) would be IVOA Deputy-Chair for a period of one year.

2.3 The Deputy-Chair would become Chair after a period of one year, and for a period of one year. A new Deputy Chair would then be found. In this manner continuity in leadership of the IVOA would be assured.

2.4 It was AGREED that NW (as nominated by BH and accepted by ALL) would be IVOA secretary for a period of one year.

2.5 It was AGREED that Roy Williams would be approached to act as Technical Chair of the IVOA

ACTION FM1-2.5: BH: by next Telecon - approach RW re Technical Chair.

2.6 There was some discussion as to the working format of the IVOA. One suggestion was that a small executive group of about five people be formed, reporting to the full group.

However in the first instance it was AGREED that:

2.6.1 There would be regular (monthly) Telecons to which all present at this meeting would be invited to participate. Each Telecon (~1 hr duration) would have a pre-circulated agenda, and minutes would be released shortly after the meeting.

2.6.2 The IVOA would recommend specific actions for attention. Small 'Tiger teams' would be formed on an ad hoc basis to address these specific issues. They would report back at the IVOA Telecon

2.6.3 Full plenary meetings of the IVOA would be held when

appropriate (once or twice per year). The next would be after the January 2003 AAS meeting in Seattle (see 4.1)

2.7 It was AGREED that the current IVOA mailing list would be expanded to include representatives from the new partners.

ACTION FM1-2.7 BH: Expand email list to include new partners

2.8 It was AGREED that IVOA's web presence would be at:

<http://www.ivoa.net>

This address has been registered by PQ.

ACTION FM1-2.8 PQ: Organise physical location of www pages, and arrange a US mirror in conjunction with RW.

2.9 It was AGREED that future IVOA 'tiger teams' should publish there papers on an IVOA 'Wiki' site. In the first instance this could be hosted by AstroGrid's Wiki.

3. IVOA and relationship with outside organisations.

3.1 FG noted that she was now the chairperson of IAU Commission 5 'Documentation and Astronomical Data '. This might be a relevant sponsor of meetings of relevance to IVOA.

3.2 RN reported that the President Elect of the IAU was Ron Ekkers of the CSIRO. It might be possible to raise the profile of VO related activities with him.

3.3. It was AGREED that the 'level of awareness' of the IVOA and VO activities in general could be raised through interaction with the IAU. The IAU is a relevant international astronomy umbrella organisation.

However it was also AGREED that the IVOA did not wish to become a full IAU sponsored committee such as the IAU FITS working group.

3.4 It was noted that the IVOA would pursue with the IAU FITS working group the possibility of reaching agreement on standards of interest. In particular the four papers describing the FITS standards on the World Coordinate System (WCS).

ACTION FM1-3.4 BH: Speak to IAU FITS working group re release of WCS standard.

4. Future Meetings.

4.1 Next full plenary meeting of the IVOA:

This was AGREED to be scheduled for the full day, Jan 10, 2003 after the AAS meeting in Seattle, USA. It was suggested that an evening pre-meeting be arranged on Jan 9, 2003.

ACTION FM-4.1 BH: organise Jan 9, 2003, pre-meeting dinner in Seattle.

4.2 Next 'major' IVOA supported VO conference:

A number of possible venues were suggested, the group agreed that a meeting hosted by one of the new IVOA members would be preferable.

AGREED: bring forward a discussion of the location of the next VO conference as an agenda item for the next IVOA Telecon.

4.3 IAU General Assembly.

FG noted that there would be a two day workshop at the Sydney General Assembly meeting in August 2003. This would be a joint meeting on the themes of 'Virtual Observatories' and 'Future Very Large Telescopes'.

In discussion it was suggested that the agendas of the various symposium and meetings around the General Assembly be scanned for those where talks relevant to the IVOA might be presented.

ACTION: FM1-4.3 BH/PQ - next telecon - identify relevant conferences/symposium at General Assembly of interest for IVOA

4.4 Regional Meetings

It was suggested that the IVOA should ensure a presence at future regional astronomy meetings. It was noted that the European Astronomical Society (EAS) meeting (JENAM 2002) would be in Porto, Portugal, 2 to 7 Sep 2002. The next major Asian meeting is 2-5 July 2002 in Tokyo - The IAU 8th Asian-Pacific Regional Meeting.

4.5 Other meetings.

AL suggested that he would organise a focused workshop in Edinburgh towards the end of 2002.

ACTION FM1-4.5 AL: update IVOA on Edinburgh meeting at next IVOA-Telecon

5. Date of Next Meetings.

5.1 Next Full Meeting: 10 Jan 2003, Seattle.

5.2 Next Telecon: To be determined.

ACTION FM1-5.2: BH: organise next Telecon.

Meeting Closed ~ 20:30 GMT

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