

IVOA Full Meeting: FM34 Supplementary

11 Nov 2009: 12.30 – 16.10 Garching Time (CET)

Notes: FP (with FG)

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distribution to exec@ivoa.net

Present:

Christophe Arviset <Christophe.Arviset@esa.int>	CA	Euro-VO/ESA - TCG
Alex Carciofi <alexcarciofi@gmail.com>	AC	BRAVO
Fernando Comeron <fcomeron@eso.org>	FC	Euro-VO/ESO (partially)
Dave De Young <deyoung@noao.edu>	DDY	NVO
Pepi Fabbiano <pepi@head.cfa.harvard.edu>	PF	NVO
Séverin Gaudet <severin.gaudet@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca>	SG	CVO - TCG
Françoise Genova <genova@astro.u-strasbg.fr>	FG	F-VO
Bob Hanisch <hanisch@stsci.edu>	BH	NVO (telecon)
Andrew Lawrence <al@roe.ac.uk>	AL	AstroGrid
Areg Mickaelian <aregmick@ars.am>	AM	ArVO (partially)
Masatoshi Ohishi <masatoshi.ohishi@nao.ac.jp>	MO	JVO
Paolo Padovani <ppadovan@eso.org>	PP	Euro-VO/ESO
Fabio Pasian <pasian@ts.astro.it>	FP	VObs.it
David Schade <David.Schade@nrc.ca>	DS	CVO
Enrique Solano <esm@laeff.inta.es>	ESo	SVO
Wolfgang Voges <wvoges@mpe.mpg.de>	WV	GAVO
Joachim Wambsganss <jkw@ari.uni-heidelberg.de>	JW	GAVO (telecon)

Apologies:

Chenzhou Cui <ccz@bao.ac.cn>	CC	China-VO
Reinaldo De Carvalho <rrdecarvalho2008@gmail.com>	RDC	BRAVO
Ajit Kembhavi <akk@iucaa.ernet.in>	AK	India-VO
Oleg Malkov <malkov@inasan.ru>	OM	RVO
Nic Walton <naw@ast.cam.ac.uk>	NW	AstroGrid

There was no representation from the Aus-VO or Korea-VO projects – both currently inactive.

Glossary:

ArVO - Armenian VO	http://www.aras.am/arvo.htm
AstroGrid - UK VO initiative	http://www.astrogrid.org
Aus-VO - Australian Virtual Observatory	http://www.aus-vo.org
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-ihp.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
KVO - Korean Virtual Observatory	http://kvo.kao.re.kr
NVO - National Virtual 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 - FP
2. Minutes of FM 34
3. Approval of new IVOA Recommendation(s) [Standing Item]
4. Prioritisation path (ctd.)
5. Standards documents and process (ctd.)
6. IVOA Web site - AL
7. WG Chairs (VOQL, Registry) ; Exec Secretary
8. Discontinuation of Astro-RG as IG - MO
9. Next Interops
10. Date of next meeting
11. AOB
12. Review of Action items

A. Appendices - reports from the VO projects, WGs and IGs - see the wiki at:

<http://www.ivoa.net/cgi-bin/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/IvoaExecMeetingFM34>

1. Roll Call and Agenda Items

The participants - as listed above - introduced themselves, with apologies noted.

BH requested to discuss item 5 after 6, part of item 3 after item 5. With these modifications, the meeting Agenda was **AGREED**.

2. Previous minutes

Notes from meeting 20091108 are available at: <http://www.ivoa.net/internal/IVOA/IvoaRepMin/ivoa-fm34-20091108.pdf>. They will be approved, together with these minutes, at the next meeting (TM35).

3. Approval of new IVOA Recommendation(s)

CA submits to Exec approval the following standards to become IVOA Recommendations:

- **SIAP 1.0** : this is an old standard which never underwent the formal approval procedure; cleaning the document had no impact on the functionality of the standard, and this is important since there is the need to keep existing services functioning. The Exec suggests to approve.
- **VOTable 1.2** : there was discussion on this standard during RFC, and the TCG review pointed to the need for small changes; backwards compatibility is assured. The Exec suggests to approve.
- **Credential Delegation Protocol 1.0** : proposed by the GWS WG, this is a technical standard and there has been less discussion over it; there are a couple of small editorial changes to be made at the time of release. With the understanding that the editorial comments will be taken care of, the Exec suggests to approve.

ACTION FM34S-3: FP to poll projects not present at the meeting (China-VO, RVO, VO-India) to explicitly express their approval on the standards.

CA noted that other standards are on the path of being approved by the TCG: in particular Documents Standards and Procedures 1.2 is mature to be released but there is one concern still that needs to be solved; for TAP 1.0 the TCG review was extended by 2 weeks. For these standards, the Exec approval will be done via e-mail.

4. Prioritisation path (ctd.)

DDY reported on the feedback received on the proposal submitted by the Take-Up Committee. The name of the Standing Committee being proposed has changed name into “Standing Committee for Science Priorities”. Among the tasks is to poll the community (IVOA?) for science use cases to be transformed into dedicated projects.

FP noted that a Terms of Reference document is needed, if Exec agrees on creating such a Committee. During the discussion it was suggested that the dedicated projects shall be lightweight and with no formalities, since they shall not subvert the mechanisms used up to now to run projects and WGs. The need to keep coordination with the TCG was noted, also to help solving the issue of resolving competing developments in dedicated projects. These may be generated by the gaps identified in the analysis of the overall IVOA architecture and shall also be addressed at checking the usability of standards in scientific use cases.

The opportunity of having the committee and the first 3 points of the document were **AGREED** by the Exec, which asks the Take-Up Committee to expand the 4th item into a ToR document for the new Standing Committee.

ACTION FM34S-4: Take-Up Committee : prepare a ToR for the “Standing Committee for Science Priorities” within December.

6. IVOA Web site

AL explained the contents of the proposal for a new structure of the IVOA web site, and the reasons behind it.

The discussion evidenced the soundness of subdividing the site in 4 blocks (members, astronomers, deployers, visitors, plus a 5th block for education/outreach). It was noted that the pages for astronomers shall (at least) provide links from where data can be retrieved. The problem of manpower to support this change was raised. While the newsletter group could contribute to the astronomy side, the deployer section may be a problem to fill since cookbooks are difficult to implement. The approach of performing a quick restructuring re-redirecting links was preferred to working in background with no release.

The concepts put ahead by AL’s proposal were **AGREED**.

ACTION FM34S-6: AL to refine the IVOA Web site document and contact interested people for implementation.

5. Standards documents and process (ctd.)

BH explains the reasons behind his proposal on standards documents and process, and its contents. There are six items in it: 1. non-technical preamble available in all documents, 2. existence of a top-view IVOA architecture diagram, 3. “peer reviewing” of standards documents, 4. TCG should deal with interoperability concerns, 5. documents should be reviewed by a technical writer/editor (mainly for language problems), 6 a searchable document tree should be created following item 2. Item 3 would allow more attentive checking of the documents.

CA informs that in contacts with TCG members it was decided to have face-to-face meetings to check interdependencies of standards and overall architecture (items 2), and starting from that general intro to documents would be much easier to write (item 1). Older documents would be retrofitted to this new schema. TCG members are to be funded by projects for participation in TCG meetings.

During the discussion, the issue of the costs for a tech writer (or copy editor) was mentioned; a possibility may be to create an Editorial Committee to solve items 3 and 5. To solve item 1, the scope of the document shall always be included in a document.

Items 1,2,4 (excluding “Given expert peer reviews” on the first line) and 6 of BH’s document were **AGREED** by Exec. Items 1, 2 and 4 will be taken care of within ACTION-34-6a. (CA’s, to be rephrased), item 6 will be taken care of within ACTION-34S-6 (AL’s). It was **AGREED** that trials will be made for items 3 and item 5.

7. WG Chairs (VOQL, Registry) ; Exec Secretary

FP reports on the nominations received for WG Chairs and Exec Secretary.

- For the Registry WG: Ray Plante is proposed to be extended as Chair for one year, with Gretchen Greene as Vice-Chair. This is **AGREED**.
- For the VOQL, an appropriate person was identified by the Exec members responding to the poll as the best candidate for Chair; a proposal was made, but the person declined.
- Exec secretary: the Exec **AGREED** in appointing Mark Allen as Secretary and **THANKED** Nic Walton for his precious work as Exec Secretary in the past 8 years.

ACTION FM34S-7: ALL to send in confidence to FP names for Chair of the VOQL WG.

8. Discontinuation of Astro-RG as IG

MO reported on the Astro-RG interest group, the IVOA interface to the Open Grid Forum. There has been a very low level of activity for a long time, and it seems there is no need to have a separate IG. The group could be discontinued, and the grid-related activity subsumed by the GWS WG.

In the discussion, an issue was raised on the opportunity of withdrawing the IVOA representation in OGF, versus keeping Astro-RG as a sub-group of OGF representing IVOA – this could be implemented as a Liaison Group (see ACTION FM32S-7.3).

The discontinuation of Astro-RG as an IG was **AGREED**.

ACTION FM34S-8: FP to poll the GWS WG Chair on a strategy to represent IVOA in Astro-RG within the OGF.

9. Next Interops

DS reported on the Victoria May 2010 Interop: everything is proceeding well. Final discussions with the hotel where the Interop is planned to be hosted.

MO reported on the Nara Dec 2010 Interop: bookings of meeting facility and hotels were made.

10. Date of next meeting

Next meeting (TM35), Telecon on Tuesday 2nd March 2010, 17.00 CET

11. AOB

a. (CA+PP) For internal visibility of the respective VO activities, ESA and ESO should have their logos added to the IVOA “ring” diagram.

ACTION FM34S-11a: FP to coordinate and check with participation rules

b. (SG) Activities and composition of the Interop POC should be re-evaluated.

ACTION FM34S-11b: SG to send a proposal to re-evaluate the role of the Interop POC.

c. (SG) The activity of preparing the contents of Interop sessions should be added to WG Chairs’ ToR.

d. (FG) The Exec and TCG mailing lists should be checked for names contained therein.

ACTION FM34S-11c: FP to ask BR to provide names contained in the Exec and TCG mailing lists.

e. CA suggested that the TCG vice-chair should be part of the Exec and included in the Exec mailing list. This was particularly relevant in the light of the various discussions and actions related to the TCG.

This was **AGREED** by the Exec.

12. Summary of Actions

Current Actions:

ACTION FM32S-5.2: ALL to send in confidence to FP names for Chairs of the VOQL and Registry WGs.

CLOSED.

ACTION FM32S-7.3: FP to poll the Exec on the opportunity of creating a new class of group (Liaison Group) in charge of contacts with communities interested in sharing experiences with the IVOA.

ONGOING: decision on opportunity to create Liaison Groups deferred to after Liaison Committee meeting on 11 Nov 2009.

ACTION TM33-12: FP: to ask the IVOA doc coordinator (Bruno Rino) to refresh the IVOA main page to reflect the current membership and more generally current status of the IVOA.

ONGOING: current membership updated; possible new structure to be discussed during FM34S following AL’s proposal

CLOSED. (replaced by **FM34S-6**)

Long-term ACTION FM34-3: Liaison Committee to keep track of coordination with neighbouring communities at the official level (through ICSU) and at the technical level (with involvement of WGs).

ACTION FM34-4: CA: together with the TCG, update the IVOA architecture diagram: that will help determining the interdependencies amongst existing and planned IVOA standards as well as facilitating the required non technical pre-amble in the document for all IVOA Standards.

ONGOING.

ACTION FM34-6a: CA: discuss with TCG how to deal with inconsistencies in documents and how to take care of implementers’ feedback and how to keep track of implementations/validation.

ONGOING.

ACTION FM34-6b: ALL: read BH's proposal on Standards documents and process for discussion at FM34S.

CLOSED.

ACTION FM34-7: ALL: read draft report from Prioritisation Committee and suggest changes for discussion and endorsement at FM34S.

CLOSED.

ACTION FM34-8a: AL: distribute a written note on proposed changes to IVOA Web site

CLOSED.

ACTION FM34-8b: ALL: send in confidence to FP names for the Exec Secretary

CLOSED.

New Actions:

ACTION FM34S-3: FP to poll projects not present at the meeting (China-VO, RVO, VO-India) to explicitly express their approval on the standards.

ACTION FM34S-4: Take-Up Committee : prepare a ToR for the "Standing Committee for Science Priorities" within December.

ACTION FM34S-6: AL to refine the IVOA Web site document and contact interested people for implementation.

ACTION FM34S-7: ALL to send in confidence to FP names for Chair of the VOQL WG.

ACTION FM34S-8: FP to poll the GWS WG Chair on a strategy to represent IVOA in Astro-RG within the OGF.

ACTION FM34S-11a: FP to coordinate and check with participation rules.

ACTION FM34S-11b: SG to send a proposal to re-evaluate the role of the Interop POC.

ACTION FM34S-11c: FP to ask BR to provide names contained in the Exec and TCG mailing lists.
