

IVOA Exec Meeting: TM117



20 December 2023, 20:00 UTC

Virtual Meeting

Notes: MH

Original: 20 December 2023—Initial Draft

Updated:

Distribution to exec@ivoa.net

Present

| Initials | Name | Institution | Email Address |
|----------|---------------------|----------------------------|--|
| BB | Bruce Berriman | USVOA/NAVO | gbb@ipac.caltech.edu |
| JE | Janet Evans | TCG Chair | janet@cfa.harvard.edu |
| CA | Christophe Arviset | ESA | christophe.arviset@esa.int |
| FP | Franck Le Petit | OV-France | Franck.LePetit@obspm.fr |
| MH | Marcy Harbut | USVOA/NAVO, Exec Secretary | mharbut@ipac.caltech.edu |
| MM | Marco Molinaro | VObs.it & TCG Vice-Chair | marco.molinaro@inaf.it |
| PF | Giuseppina Fabbiano | USVOA/SAO | gfabbian@cfh.harvard.edu |
| PW | Patricia Whitelock | SA ³ | paw@sao.ac.za |
| RN | Robert Nikutta | USVOA/OIR | robert.nikutta@noirlab.edu |
| SG | Sebastian Gurovich | NOVA | gurovich@mail.oac.uncor.edu |
| SO | Simon O'Toole | ASVO, Exec Vice-Chair | simon.otoole@mq.edu.au |

Glossary

| Acronym | Institution Name | Institution Website |
|-----------|--|---|
| ArVO | Armenian Virtual Observatory | https://www.aras.am/Arvo/arvo.htm |
| AstroGrid | UK VO initiative | http://www.astrogrid.org |
| ASVO | Australian Virtual Observatory | https://asvo.org.au/ |
| BRAVO | Brazil Virtual Observatory | http://bravo.iag.usp.br/ |
| China-VO | Chinese Virtual Observatory | http://www.china-vo.org |
| ChiVO | Chile Virtual Observatory | https://chivo.cl/ |
| CVO | Canadian Virtual Observatory | https://www.cadc-ccda.hia-ihp.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/cvo/ |
| ESA | European Space Agency | https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/esdc |
| Euro-VO | European Virtual Observatory | http://www.euro-vo.org |
| GAVO | German Astrophysical Virtual Observatory | https://www.g-vo.org/ |
| JVO | Japanese Virtual Observatory | http://jvo.nao.ac.jp/index-e.html |
| KazVO | Kazakhstan Virtual Observatory | https://fai.kz/ |
| NLVO | Netherlands Virtual Observatory | https://www.virtualobservatory.nl/ |

| Acronym | Institution Name | Institution Website |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| NOVA | Argentina Virtual Observatory | https://nova.conicet.gov.ar |
| OV-France | VO-France | http://www.france-vo.org |
| RVO | Russian Virtual Observatory | http://www.inasan.ru/organizational-activity/rvo/rvo/ |
| SA3 (or SA ³) | South Africa Astroinformatics Alliance | https://sa3.ac.za/ |
| SKAO | Square Kilometre Array Observatory | https://www.skao.int/ |
| SVO | Spanish Virtual Observatory | https://svo.cab.inta-csic.es/main/index.php |
| UkrVO | Ukraine Virtual Observatory | http://www.ukr-vo.org/ |
| USVOA | US Virtual Observatory Alliance | http://usvoa.cfa.harvard.edu |
| VO-India | Indian Virtual Observatory | http://voi.iucaa.in/voi/ |
| VObs.it | The Italian Virtual Observatory | https://vobs.it |
| IVOA | International Virtual Observatory Alliance | http://www.ivoa.net |

Agenda

1. New IVOA Chair and Vice-Chair
2. Roll call and agenda
 - Regrets: Chenzhou Cui (China-VO), Antonio Chrysostomou (SKAO), Areg Mikaelian (ArVO), Joachim Wambsganss (GAVO)
3. Review and Approval of TM116 Minutes
4. Review of Exec Actions for TM117
5. Project Reports [Significant Events Only]
6. Overall TCG Status
7. Approval of new IVOA Recommendation(s) [Standing Item]
8. CSP Status
9. Reviving Liaison Committee
 - IVOA-IAU Liaison Group
 - IHDEA and IPDA
10. IVOA Website [new standing item]
 - Dedicated hack-a-thon session during Interop
 - Standing item for future meetings
 - Draft new website: <https://webtest.ivoa.info/>
 - GitHub Repository: <https://github.com/ivoa/ivoa-web>
 - To report bugs and request changes: <https://github.com/ivoa/ivoa-web/issues>
11. Future Interop meetings
 - Northern Spring 2024: Sydney – Week of May 19
 - Northern Fall 2024: Malta - Week of November 10 (ADASS Nov. 10-14)
12. AOB
13. Review of new action items

Next Exec Meeting: TBD

Discussion

1. New IVOA Chair and Vice-Chair

- Following the November 2023 Exec meeting (TM116) and follow-up discussion by email, CA has handed over the role of Exec Chair to SO and SO has handed the role of Vice-Chair to JJ.
 - Many thanks to CA for his service as Chair this past year
 - SO thanks CA for serving a one-year term so SO could ease be his understudy
2. Roll Call and Agenda
 - The names of the attendees are recorded.
 3. Review and Approval of TM116 Minutes
 - The minutes have been reviewed and approved.
 4. Review of Exec actions for TM117
 - **TM112.3** All Exec to send BB and SO the names of potential candidates to serve on the Organizing Committee of the IAU Functional Working. **IN PROGRESS**
 - UPDATED ACTION: BB will summarize in an email the exact current information he's requested. **DONE**
 - BB sent out a request for membership with information on what it would involve. He's received two responses (AM and SG). We could use at least a couple more volunteers, ideally someone who understands how the IAU works because it's a very procedure-driven organization.
 - CC would be a good candidate because he's experienced with the IAU. AK may also be considered.
 - **Action: BB will reach out to CC and AK.**
 - **TM115.5:** MM: Check with Klass on a potential target release date for the new website. **IN PROGRESS (to be discussed in meeting)**
 - **TM116.1:** MH to correct the date for Sydney Interop in future Exec meeting minutes and agendas. **DONE**
 - **TM116.2:** MA will draft an email summarizing the Chair and VC discussion so that CA may activate the approval process from Exec; responses will be due by 6 p.m. MST Saturday, Nov. 11. **DONE**
 - **TM116.3:** MM to send MH the correct links for the IVOA website test site and for comments on the new site. **DONE**
 - **TM116.4:** SO to work with Sydney LOC to set up Interop web page and registration. **DONE**
 - **TM116.5:** SO will reach to Alessio about Malta Interop: venue, dates, costs, etc. **DONE**
 - **TM116.6:** MH will create a Doodle poll to schedule the next Exec meeting with options to vote for 20:00 UT and 12:00 UT on December 19 and 20, 2023. **DONE**
 - **TM116.7:** MD to forward his original email to CA to the Exec list re: Notes. **DONE**

5. Project Reports [Significant Events Only]

- **NAVO:** BB said folks are working on a proposal due to NASA in mid-February. Do not expect to hear from NAVO until after the deadline. There is a draft done.
- **USVAO:** JE said a meeting report from the workshop on the Future of Astronomical Data Infrastructure (held Feb. 2023 at the Flatiron Institute in New York) was recently published (Nov. 2023) with US IVOA participants/authors/editors. It was in response to the Decadal report 2020 and gave advice to the funding agencies going forward. IVOA was identified/referenced a number of times in the report. Here's a link if you are interested in reading the report: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2311.04272.pdf>
 - CA: A very impressive paper; he read all of it and distributed it to a few contacts. Are you expecting a response?
 - JE: There has been some activity with AAAS and a NASA group in Washington, DC. did a presentation. It's only been a few months.
 - GBB: It's curious that the call for proposals that applies to NAVO didn't require FAIR principles at all. They will address it, but the extent is TBD.
 - JE: The IVOA has a good number of examples provided in the report.
- **NOVA:** SG is working with Chi-VO on plate digitization and data extraction. The MOU is signed by the observatory director; now they're working on a general covenant agreement with the government of Shanghai.
- **ASVO:** SO is working on a five-year review for Australia VO that is similar to the US Decadal Review. All funding agencies look to the decadal plan to determine what should be funded. IVOA activities will be put on front and center. This is an opportunity to coordinate all of the various data and computing activities in Australia. There won't be a draft probably until next year.

6. Overall TCG Status

- See full TCG report in [Project Reports section](#).
- Excerpt re: new IVOA interest groups:
 - JE is looking for procedures for setting up an interest group and haven't come across them in search. Does anyone know if they exist?
 - There is lots of interest in a High Energy Interest Group (HEIG)
 - Next meeting that will include a discussion is tomorrow; a Note is in Draft
 - SO asked what the process is for setting up an IG.
 - CA: We try to define the new group and discuss it at Exec.
 - JE: If we want to do this on the timescale of the May meeting should we pick Chairs and VC by the May meeting, or announce it at the May meeting?
 - SO: Picking Chairs and VC at the May meeting would be ideal.
 - CA: It's important to have a draft a note of the group's mission and scope to avoid too much overlap among interest groups.
 - JE: Exec should consider trading off some IGs for others that are not as active or well attended.

- FP: It would be good to have descriptions for these groups. We should think through closing down some of these groups that may prevent members serving as Chair and VC for less active groups to get involved with other groups.
- SO concurs; he knows some people he can recommend to JE for the High-Energy IG.
 - **Action: SO to recommend some contacts for the HEIG to JE.**

7. Approval of new IVOA Recommendation(s) [Standing Item]

- There were four recommendations proposed: DataLink1.1, ADQL2.1, VOUnit1.1, SpectrumDM2.1
- All were approved by Exec by email.
- JE says the TCG will finish up the documentation.

8. CSP Status

- Discussion deferred in AN's absence
- MM said they discovered an issue with the Exec mailing list, where some members were left off.
 - **Action for MM: Add the CSP VC to the Exec mailing list.**

9. Reviving Liaison Committee

- IVOA-IAU Liaison Group and IHDEA and IPDA
- This was discussed at the November 2023 Exec meeting in Tucson, Arizona.
- BB: When the suggestion to revive the IHDEA and IPDA was proposed, he looked into it. He thinks they are quite separate.
- This effort has been relatively active.
- CA asked BB about putting information about the liaison group on Twiki. BB said he had trouble posting material to the Twiki so he asked the TWiki admin if they would add the material. He will follow up with them.
 - **Action for BB: Get the status of adding liaison group information to Twiki.**
- CA said the IHDEA is like the IVOA but for solar physics; it's been around for three years. The IPDA is planetary science, the International Planetary Data Alliance. CA is a past Chair of IPDA; it's been around for 15 years.
 - The IHDEA is the soul of the solar physics community. In Australia, they've been reaching out to them. SO will reach out to his contacts about this group.
 - MM: They want to re-use some standards, as well as the way we organize standards.
 - CA: One option would be to expand the Solar System IG.
 - MM: What happens to the High-Energy Physics? They have communities and consortia themselves. This is really a matter of levels of communication.
 - CA is concerned about finding volunteers to work on all these committees.

- SO: It makes sense for these groups to engage with other communities, but it is hard to find the right people for new IGs. Perhaps people within the groups know people they can recommend. The IGs are the bridge to different communities.
- JE: Do we ask those questions of people who come into the groups?
- PF: Perhaps approach the Chairs and VCs of the groups and ask what they think.
 - **Action: SO will contact his contacts, as well as the Chairs and VCs of the IVOA interest groups, about working with IHDEA.**

10. IVOA Website [new standing item]

- Interop Hackathon update
 - MM said there is another meeting planned to address tech solutions to the website, after which they'll incorporate the changes and notes from the hackathon.
- JE: We're addressing the mechanics of the website, which looks great, but it's only a layer on top of the content and documentation. The hackathon addressed where the users need to go next. The documentation pages themselves are a bigger effort.
- MM: If we start a new website effort, we'd need to redesign a couple of pages.
- JE: The Exec needs to think about who else can take on the curation and maintenance of the documentation. The TCG can't take it on. These pages are important for new users.
- CA made several calls at the Bologna and Tucson Interops for volunteers and no one stepped forward.
- MM has two people in mind who could move this forward. He agrees with JE, even if it's people who have other commitments to the IVOA.
- SO said he may have a few people on his team who could play a role. He'll speak with them in the new year to see if they have capacity.
- JE: Regarding the media group, the newsletter hasn't gone out in a while. This effort is part of this.
- PF said newsletters used to go out after each meeting, twice a year.
- SO: The newsletters went dormant when the previous champion/driver stepped down.
 - Action: SO will put out a call for volunteers for the media group and IVOA web page management and migration work.

11. Future Interop meetings

- Northern Spring 2024: Sydney - Week of May 19 (Interop day one is May 19)
 - Venue is booked.
 - They're working on catering options. Registration will open towards the end of January; there is currently a draft site in the works.
 - The dates are set.

- SO will arrange dates for Protocol Transitioning Tiger Team ([P3T](#)); not sure if it's in the same space where Interop will be held.
- Northern Fall 2024: Malta - Week of November 10 (ADASS Nov. 10-14)
 - SO hasn't met with Alessio yet, but they are in contact. They will meet the week of January 22, 2024.

12. Date of next Exec meeting

- Consider alternating the time slots to make future meetings friendlier to members in other time zones.
- **Action: MH will create a Doodle poll for a meeting at 13:00 UT to be scheduled the week of Feb. 5, 2024.**

13. AOB

- None

14. Review of New Action Items

TM117.1: BB will reach out to CC and AK about serving on the organizing committee of the IAU Functional Working Group.

TM117.2: SO to recommend some contacts for the HEIG to JE.

TM117.3: MM: Add the CSP VC to the Exec mailing list.

TM117.4: BB: Get the status of adding liaison group information to Twiki.

TM117.5: SO will contact his contacts, as well as the Chairs and VCs of the IVOA interest groups, about working with IHDEA.

TM117.6: SO will put out a call for volunteers for the media group and IVOA web page management and migration work.

TM117.7: MH will create a Doodle poll for a meeting at 13:00 UT to be scheduled the week of Feb. 5, 2024.

Project Reports

NOVA (Argentina)

ArVO (Armenia)

AstroGrid (United Kingdom)

ASVO (Australia)

BRAVO (Brazil)

China-VO

ChiVO (Chile)

CVO (Canada)

ESA (Europe)

Euro-VO (Europe)

GAVO (Germany)

JVO (Japan)

Kazakhstan VO

NLVO (Netherlands)

OV-France

RVO (Russia)

SA³ (South Africa)

SKAO (Square Kilometre Array Observatory; Australia & South Africa)

SVO (Spain)

UKrVO (Ukraine)

USVOA (United States)

A meeting report from the workshop on the Future of Astronomical Data Infrastructure (held Feb 2023 at the Flatiron Inst, NY) was recently published (Nov 2023) with US IVOA participants/authors/editors. It was in response to the Decadal report 2020 and gave advice to the funding agencies going forward. IVOA was identified/referenced a number of times in the report. Here's a link if you are interested in reading the report: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2311.04272.pdf>

VO-India

VObs.it (Italy)

INAF has established a working group dedicated to Open Science to develop policies and strategies to enable Open Science at institutional level. The first event organised by that WG was held 14-15 December 2023 and the IVOA as a community that manages open standards has been presented in the "Open Data" session of the event itself. The slides can be seen [here](#) (beware, they are really sketchy). The talk was well accepted and helped connect to other research institutions in Italy in terms of FAIR approach to data and services holdings.

Report from the TCG

- Met once since Interop - Dec 13; next mtg: Jan 24
 - WG/IGs developer 2023A Roadmaps - reviewed a number of entries at last mtg
 - <https://wiki.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/2023ARoadmap>
- Nov Interop
 - 4 RECs passed TCG/Exec review - Thank you
 - [DataLink1.1](#), [ADQL2.1](#), [VOUnit1.1](#), [SpectrumDM2.1](#)
 - This cleared the deck and new/ongoing initiatives identified in Roadmap 2023A
 - Hackathon: Reviewed 4 major pages of documentation:
 - Applications, Astronomers, Deployers, Documents
 - Provided link to feedback for later topic in agenda
- Set up Protocol Transitioning Tiger team ([P3T](#))
 - <https://wiki.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/DALGWSTigerTeam> - Lead: James Dempsey
 - The aim is to address the question of compatibility of the DAL protocols (and by implication protocols such as UWS) with modern web development tools. The recommendations being examined would mostly be in DAL and GWS (e.g., TAP, SIA2, [SODA](#), UWS) so will need to be a cross WG effort. A question to answer is : How do we adapt the protocol interactions to be compatible with tools such as OpenAPI?
 - Plan to kick off in January - mtgs once per month for 4 months; 2 days (Thu/Fri) before the Interop to meet; discussed with Simon
- Looking for procedures for setting up an Interest group - haven't come across them in search - Does anyone know if they exist??
 - HEIG (High Energy Interest Group) aiming in this direction
 - Next meeting that will include a discussion is tomorrow; a Note is in Draft

Report from the CSP