

IVOA Exec Meeting: TM124



14 November 2024, 16:30 CET (Valletta, Malta local time)

15:30 UTC

Hybrid Meeting:

Zoom and University of Malta, Valletta campus, Institute of Space Sciences and Astronomy, Room 103

Notes: MH

Original: 14 November 2024—Initial Draft

Updated:

Distribution to exec@ivoa.net

Present (X - Remote)

Initials	Remote	Name	Institution	Email Address
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MA		Mark Allen	Euro_VO	mark.allen@astro.unistra.fr
MD		Markus Demleitner	GAVO	msdemlei@ari.uni-heidelberg.de
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MM		Marco Molinaro	VObs.it & TCG Vice Chair	marco.molinaro@inaf.it
PW	X	Patricia Whitelock	SA ³	paw@sao.ac.za
PF		Giuseppina Fabbiano	USVAO/SAO	gfabbiano@cfa.harvard.edu
RN		Robert Nikutta	USAVAO/OIR	robert.nikutta@noirlab.edu
SO		Simon O'Toole	ASVO, Exec Vice Chair	simon.otoole@mq.edu.au
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YG		Yan Grange	NLVO	grange@astron.nl

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/
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. Roll call and agenda
 - o Regrets: Joachim Wambsganss (GAVO – MD attended on their behalf), Encarni Romero Colmenero (SA³), Enrique Solano (SVO), Oleg Malkov (RVO)
2. Review and approval of [TM123 minutes](#)
3. Review of actions for TM124
4. Report on the IAU General Assembly
5. Project Reports [Significant Events Only]
6. Overall TCG status [Standing Item]
7. High Energy Interest Group (HEIG) proposal
8. Approval of new IVOA Recommendation(s) [Standing Item]
 - o [IVOA Architecture Note v2.1](#)
9. CSP status
10. P3T report
11. IVOA Website [Standing Item]

- Proposal to use the IVOA newsletter to recruit volunteers to coordinate feedback and improvements on the IVOA website
 - Draft new website available: <https://webtest.ivoa.info>
 - Git Hub repository: <https://github.com/ivoa/ivoa-web>
 - Bug reporting and change requests: <https://github.com/ivoa/ivoa-web/issues>
12. Future Interop meetings
- Northern Spring 2025 – Maryland, USA
 - Northern Fall 2025
13. Date of next Exec meeting
14. AOB
15. Review of new actions

Next Exec Meeting: TBD

Discussion

1. Roll Call and Agenda
 - The names of the attendees are recorded.
2. Review and Approval of [TM123 Minutes](#)
 - The minutes are approved.
3. Review of [Actions for TM124](#)
 - **TM120.1:** SO will request a deadline extension for the SPIE poster and manuscript; he'll also send out the abstract to Exec (**DONE**).
 - **TM120.2:** CA to investigate if registry statistics per country could be reported for planning Spring 2025 Interop at UMD in College Park, Maryland (USA). (**DONE**)
 - **Update:** CA will give a presentation in the Registry session at 12:00 pm Saturday. They have looked at all contributions per country. It's difficult to draw a conclusion. There is not enough time in this meeting for discussion; it is deferred until after CA's presentation.
 - **Link to CA's presentation to the Registry WG session:** [Microsoft PowerPoint - 20241116-Arviset-RegistryStatisticsPerCountries](#)
 - **TM122.1:** MA will contact people from I-HOW Initiative in person at the IAU General Assembly. (**IN PROGRESS**).
 - **Update:** Proposal scheme to run different training events; MA and BB were not able to connect with the representatives in person, so they are trying to

reach out by email. BB had a Zoom chat with the person in charge of I-HOW that was very collegial. He concurred that VO standards, though he wasn't an expert in them, had a lot to do with making data accessible and developing tools. His suggestion was to stay in touch and work together to develop standards. Priya Hassan has put in a proposal for Gaia data tools, but it was declined. They will work on updating and re-submitting.

- **TM123.1:** MH: Include newsletter discussion item on the agenda for the November Exec meeting. **DONE**
- **TM123.2:** SO: Distribute updated summary of costs for November Interop. **DONE**
 - **Update:** There were a few extra people than originally budgeted, so some expenses will need to be sorted out.
- **TM123.3:** FC: Send an email to Anne and cc: SO about Maryland Interop. **DONE**
 - **Update:** There are now dates and a venue, other details TBD
- **TM123.4:** SO: Reach out to Kai about Fall 2025 ADASS and whether IVOA is included. **DONE**
 - **Update:** SO confirmed IVOA is part of the planning. It will be held in Görlitz.

4. Report on the IAU General Assembly

- BB said it was a very successful meeting, with a dedicated session on open engagement and the VO with a presentation by Priya Hassan, Brad Senko, Russ Taylor and BB. The content was posted online. Overall, a very successful event.
- BB also gave a talk on the benefits of the Virtual Observatory to underserved communities, with a focus session on harnessing ground-based optical telescopes in Africa. There were lots of attendees from African countries that are deploying their own telescopes, and the users are eager to learn about the VO and making data accessible. BB also submitted a paper to the proceedings that is under review.
- MA reported on a workshop called the VO Workshop for African Students and Educators that was presented as a side event and inspired by a CDS workshop held in 2016 in South Africa. The presenters ran three tutorials over a day and also supported some participants' projects. The room was full of students from diverse parts of Africa. Special thanks to PW for her assistance.
- BB said Gabriel Giovannini, President of Division B, really helped make the VO visible and helped with navigating the IAU's procedures. Unfortunately, his term is ending, but he may stay on as an advisor. We are thankful for his tremendous support.
- PW would like people to consider presenting at one of the African Astronomical Society events in the future. There is a real need for workshops and there would be a significant audience. Although the IAU GA is very successful, it's a smaller group.
 - SO said there are some funding streams to support this.
 - CC said Shenzhen Li, Chair of the EDUIG and BRIX astronomical working group, discussed a collaboration with Priya Hassan on education and tutorials.

- PF wondered if we should consider holding the next IVOA meeting in South Africa. We could have a special event as part of it.
 - SO suggests an expression of interest for May Interop 2026, just to get a lot of lead time due to associated costs, etc.
 - PW said the African Astronomical Society is financed from South Africa, so their AGMs will be alternately held in SA and in other African countries. If we could dovetail the IVOA meeting to align with the African Astronomical Society, we might get a good audience from outside SA. PW will try to find out dates, etc.

5. Project Reports

- ESA

- ESASky version 7.0 released early November containing an interactive Time-Series Viewer for detailed inspection of public time-series data from Gaia DR3 epoch photometry, XMM-Newton EPIC photometry and XMM-Newton OM photometry. This release also contains the latest version of the XMM-OM serendipitous ultraviolet source survey catalogue (XMM-SUSS6.2) and an upgrade to the latest Aladin Lite sky visualisation (from CDS), which contains support to FITS HiPS, integrated FITS controls within the skies panel (e.g. changing the sky stretch, cuts and blending) and new sky projections (e.g. Spheric, Tangential, Aitoff, Mollweide...).
- CA reports the first Euclid archive for the Euclid Consortium was released and it features most of the IVOA protocols, including TAP, SODA, SSAP, and DataLink. It's only internal for now, but it has ~2000 users. In the future, we'll be able to say that anybody who wants to use Euclid data will use the VO.
 - Euclid Archive Internal Quick Release #1 on 6th of November 2024, featuring lots of VO standards (TAP, SIAP, SSAP, VOspace, SODA, DataLink)
 - Euclid QR#1 contains data for a limited sky coverage 50 deg² with exclusive-access data to the Euclid Consortium and the Euclid interdisciplinary scientists and their teams to get familiarized with Euclid data and capabilities. It also included a subset of the Euclid scientific data products (no cosmological analysis). QR1 data will be released publicly in March 2025 and the 1st major public Euclid data released scheduled for the second half of 2026. Within one week after the release, the VO data services were heavily used:
 - 40.136 TAP Sync requests
 - 22.329 TAP Async requests
 - 8.170 SIAP requests
 - 10.040 Cutout requests
 - 18.637 Download requests of FITS files

- The best release of the Integral Science Legacy Archive (ISLA) was released in October 2024, and is based on the usual TAP backend, as all the ESA Science Archives.
- Euro-VO
 - Euro-VO activities have gained some new funding for a project called Astro-CC Pilot (Astronomy Open Science Competence Centre Pilot). This project will run for 2 years between December 2024 and November 2026 and is focused on running community events: 2 Science with VO Schools, 2 Technology forums, and a "Data Provider forum."
 - MA added: It's a project with partners in Germany, Italy, and Spain. There is not a lot of funds to pay for developer time, but it's money to run events for 40-50 people.
- GAVO
 - GAVO's Heidelberg data centre keeps adding resources at a rate of a few per semester; a particularly notable addition was an obscure mapping of DASCH <https://blog.g-vo.org/dasch-is-now-in-the-vo.html>.
 - We maintain and support our data publication package DaCHS. Notable improvements since the last interop include preliminary support for the persistent TAP uploads <https://blog.g-vo.org/a-proposal-for-persistent-tap-uploads.html> and a prototype for VODataService 's proposed productTypeServed as well as registering Obscore tables in their own records (<https://blog.g-vo.org/what-s-new-in-dachs-2-10.html>).
 - We also participate in the development of pyVO. It's version 1.6 now and has our new API for global image discovery <https://blog.g-vo.org/global-dataset-discovery-in-pyvo.html>.
 - In teaching and outreach, we have given a lecture on using the VO with particular attention on ADQL and pyVO: <https://blog.g-vo.org/learn-to-use-the-vo.html>. The resulting lecture notes hopefully work as something like a textbook, and re-use by other projects is of course highly welcome.
- OV-France
 - VESPA
 - End of contract Europlanet RI in July 2024
 - New website <https://vespa.obspm.fr>
 - 91 published services EPN-TAP
 - 69 HiPS on planetary sciences
 - Geospatial portal under development in collaboration with the CDS (AladinLite)
 - Interface EPN-TAP for PDS4 data collections (NASA/ESA/JAXA)
 - Shape models of small bodies can now be visualised on Topcat!
 - CDS

- CDS participation in SKA SRCNet prototyping: implementation of VO standards based on SRCNet needs (HiPS, ObsCore, SODA, Aladin Lite)
 - New web pages <https://cds.unistra.fr>
 - Jupyter Notebooks are available for each Vizier catalogue! (pyvo, mocpy, ipyaladin)
 - CDS “Open Data for Astronomy” project funded: ObsCore for ‘associated data’ from journals
 - ipyaladin improved compatibility with Astropy, supports MOC, supports FITS, etc.)
 - mocpy: faster methods (from_cones, from_boxes), new methods (MOC from Astropy regions,...). Collaboration with various research groups (Goddard, LINCC, LIGO)
 - PF adds: There is no longer European representation in VESPA, but there is a new website and a lot of resources published. There is some collaboration between CDS and VESPA for the service portal interface of EPN-TAP and PDS4 formats. The CDS participation is in SKA SRCNet and prototyping and implementation of VO standards. Jupyter Notebooks are now integrated for all of the catalogs. There is a lot of development going and there have been some presentations during ADASS, and there will be some during Interop.
- ASVO
 - Data Central has published two major data releases:
 - GALAH Data Release 4, including 17 million AAT spectra and associated catalogues
 - GLEAM-X Data Release 2, including ~13,000 sq degrees of multi-frequency imaging and associated catalogues
 - We are also building records for the Data Central TAP service to be included in the IVOA registry.
- USVOA
 - The USVOA continues to actively support IVOA developments and meetings.
 - The Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian Chandra team has been particularly active in the debate of high energy astrophysics standards and is one of the leading proponents of the establishment of a working group in this area.
 - NOIRLab implemented and deployed a first version of a lightweight VO Publishing Registry, with services from the Astro Data Lab science platform exposed in this iteration.
 - CFA has a new release of Chandra Source Catalog that is totally VO-compliant and contains a half-million sources, making it especially good for AI data mining.

6. Overall TCG Status

- TCG met three times since last Exec meeting
 - twice online (27 Sep. & 17 Oct.)
 - once in presence (14 Nov. - just before the Exec) in Malta
- Standards and documents processing
 - RegTAP-1.2 promoted to REC (Exec approval on 2 Oct.)
 - progressing RFC: VOTable-1.5, VOEvent-2.1
 - UDF-catalogue-1.2 & Architecture-2.1 Endorsed Notes approved
 - UCDFList-1.6 Proposed EN under finalisation
- A good part of the efforts of the online meetings included Malta's schedule preparations
- Request to formalize GWS -> DSP WG name change
- Continued connection with the P3T group
- Periodic reports on ivoa.net web static pages rebuild status
- More detailed discussions available from TCG vconf & meeting pages
- Next TCG meeting will be a vconf on Wed. 18 Dec. 2024 @ 14 UTC
- MM: Chair for time domain interest group, Raphael, is no longer able to serve in this role, which is unfortunate. Pierre Fernick, the VC, will support the group as much as he can in the interim while we search for a new coordinator.
 - FC: There should be a lot of TD folks at the High Energy and Plenary IG group meetings.

7. High Energy Interest Group (HEIG) Proposal

- JE: The High Energy IG met initially in Bologna and it was a great meeting. There were lots of sidebar conversations and collaborations.
 - Since then, there have been about 1 meeting/month with 12-15 attending.
 - There is a new website with notes from each meeting. The HEIG IVOA comes up in Google searches.
 - IVOA note with 16 authors has been drafted and posted to the web page with folks representing CDS, CFA, CTAO, HEASARC, APC, Strasbourg, FAU, and CEA, so all high-energy wavelengths are covered.
 - There has been discussion on the obscure model and how it works and doesn't work with HE data.
 - Bruno Kelfi is giving a talk in the data model group about gamma ray data.
 - The group is ready to ask the IVOA to consider making HEIG added to the list of IGs. We're following IVOA convention to make sure scientists are in charge. The Chair is Bruno Kelfi and the JE is considering the VC role.
- SO: What is the process for creating a new IG?

- CA suggests looking at what we wrote for the [IAU] liaison group: write a charter to explain its purpose, etc., and distribute to Exec and we can accept it by email.
- How much of the note can go into the charter?
- **Action for JE: Draft HEIG charter and distribute to Exec email**

8. Approval of new IVOA Recommendations

- [IVOA Architecture Note v2.1](#)
- Endorsed unanimously by Exec via email
- SO will announce at the State of the IVOA at the meeting

9. CSP Status

- FC: After the Interop meeting, where we organized a plenary on big data, we had another meeting in September to continue discussion of big data, intersecting with HEIG. The goal with Vandana Desai is to be more active with IG and attend their meetings. It worked well with HEIG, which led to a new session to welcome new members: Judy Racusin, who is giving a talk at this meeting, and Minh Nguyen from Australia. She is very busy and the CSP meeting timing doesn't always work but she wants to be connected.

10. P3T Report

- JE: There was a two-day meeting at the Sydney Interop where they planned steps to bring open API to the standards related to web interfaces. There have been 5 meetings. The apps group had about 21 members; they voiced some concerns so discussions were folded back.
- At Friday's plenary, four representatives (the tiger team) will present and then there will be time for discussion.
- TD: This week from hallway discussions, the biggest concern is breaking changes to the standards and the work involved. We should get past discussion whether we should even have breaking changes to how do we manage those in a timely fashion through some sort of deprecation cycle? We'll have to get consensus.
 - JE: It's bigger than P3T. We did meet as a group yesterday and it's not what it was as described in June.
 - MD: We can do major changes, I agree with Tom that the question is not do we want them, but how do we do them? And, can we find social techniques to make these changes happen? It's a social problem rather than a technical one.
 - MM: Either we enlarge the mandate, or we find another group to take care of that.
 - JE: Or the PT3 gets taken up. It should be taken up by one of the interest or working groups, otherwise you're creating a new WG/IG, which wasn't the intent. It must get subsumed into the group where it makes the most sense.

- SO concurs with JE.

11. IVOA Website

- Proposal to use the IVOA newsletter to recruit a volunteer(s) to coordinate feedback and improvements on the IVOA website.
 - A few people expressed interest in serving as an editor for the newsletter, including FC. CA said Deborah Bains also expressed interest.
 - SO: We should aim to have a small newsletter in the immediate future and a bigger one after Maryland. Let's stick to an annual publishing schedule.
 - MM: This part of the newsletter is important because Gregory Mantelet ported all the newsletters into the new markdown system.
 - SO will announce some of these in the State of the IVOA presentation
- Draft new website available: <https://webtest.ivoa.info/>
 - GitHub repository: <https://github.com/ivoa/ivoa-web>
 - Bug reporting and change requests: <https://github.com/ivoa/ivoa-web/issues>

12. Future Interop meetings

- Northern Spring 2025 - Maryland, USA (June 1-6, 2025)
 - FC: The issue with UMD is there aren't a lot of people there—there is only one person. FC's action was to connect with her and start the process.
 - We now have a date: June 2-6, with TCG and Exec meetings on Sunday, June 1.
 - We have the location locked down and now we're getting quotes for catering, etc.
 - The main issue will be finding funding because the venue doesn't come for free. We'll put in 1-2 proposals for NASA workshops. With NASA money, we can't pay for food, so we'll need to find other ways, even if we just want coffee. We'll need to find other sponsors for that. If you want to sponsor it and send us money, we are going to send you a bill.
 - UMD is in College Park next to Washington, DC. There is a Metro. The venue is walking distance or easy distance from bus and Metro. You can fly into Dulles or DCA.
 - We won't get a room block because there are enough hotels around where you can find reasonable prices if you book in advance.
- Northern Fall 2025
 - Görlitz (ADASS dates: 9-13 November 2025, Interop to be held after ADASS)
 - We may go to the Technical University of Dresden, depending on room availability
 - These details will be announced in time

13. Date of next Exec meeting

- **Action for MH: Create a Doodle poll for next meeting scheduled between Tuesday, Feb. 18 through Feb. 28, 2025**

14. AOB

- Decision to change name of Grid Web Services (GWS) WG to Distributed Services Protocols (DSP) WG—why the change?
- MM: Grid doesn't sound like anything and web services is too generic. The group finds protocols that are general and lower layer for other groups.
- Has the statement of purpose been updated to reflect that it's no longer grid and web services? It's all about grid computing.
- **Action for MM: Ask the GWS Chair and VC to update the charter to reflect the name change and statement of purpose (as needed).**

15. Review of New Actions

TM124.1: JE: Draft HeIG charter and distribute to Exec email

TM124.2: MH: Create a Doodle poll for next meeting scheduled between Tuesday, Feb. 18 through Feb. 28, 2025

TM124.3: MM: Ask the GWS Chair and VC to update the charter to reflect the name change and statement of purpose (as needed).