

IVOA Exec Meeting: TM127



01 June 2025, 20:00 UTC

Hybrid Meeting

Notes: PF

Original: 01 June 2025—Initial Draft

Updated: 12 June 2025 (MH)

Distribution to exec@ivoa.net

Present (18)

Initials	Name	Institution	Email Address
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AM	Areg Mickaelian	ArVO	aregmick@yahoo.com
BB	Bruce Berriman	USVOA/NAVO, IAU-VO Liaison	gbb@ipac.caltech.edu
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CC	Chenzhou Cui	China-VO	ccz@bao.ac.cn
CO	Chingis Omarov	KazVO	chingis.omarov@gmail.com
MA	Mark Allen	Euro_VO	mark.allen@astro.unistra.fr
MD	Markus Demleitner	GAVO (alternate)	msdemlei@ari.uni-heidelberg.de
MM	Marco Molinaro	VObs.it & TCG Chair	marco.molinaro@inaf.it
OM	Oleg Malkov	RVO	malkov@inasan.ru
PF	Giuseppina Fabbiano	USVAO/SAO	gfabbiano@cfa.harvard.edu
RN	Robert Nikutta	USVOA/OIR	robert.nikutta@noirlab.edu
SB	Sudhanshu Barway	VO-India	sudhanshu.barway@iiap.res.in
SO	Simon O'Toole	ASVO, Exec Chair	simon.otoole@mq.edu.au
YS	Yuji Shirasaki	JVO	yuji.shirasaki@nao.ac.jp

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/
CSP	Standing Committee of Science Priorities	https://wiki.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/IvoaSciencePriorities
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

Acronym	Institution Name	Institution Website
Euro-VO	European Virtual Observatory	http://www.euro-vo.org
GAVO	German Astrophysical Virtual Observatory	https://www.g-vo.org/
IVOA	International Virtual Observatory Alliance	http://www.ivoa.net
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	https://asov.obspm.fr/
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
TCG	Technical Coordination Group	https://wiki.ivoa.net/wiki/bin/view/IVOA/IvoaTCG
UkrVO	Ukraine Virtual Observatory	http://www.ukr-vo.org/
USVOA/NAVO	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

Agenda

1. Roll call and agenda
2. Review and approval of TM126 Minutes
3. Review of [ACTIONS for TM127.pdf](#)
4. Exec Membership Updates
 - o Recognition of Ajit Khembavi's association with IVOA for over 20 years
 - o Recognition of Sudhanshu Barway as new VO-India representative on Exec
5. IVOA Communication Channels
6. IVOA Web Assets Organization and Efforts
7. Interest Group Scope
8. IG/WG Chairs and Vice Chairs Terms
9. Future Interop meetings
 - o Northern Fall 2025 - Görlitz (ADASS dates: 9-13 November 2025, Interop held after ADASS)
 - o Northern Spring 2026
10. Project Reports [Significant Events Only]
11. Overall TCG Status [Standing Item]

12. Approval of new IVOA Recommendation(s) [Standing Item]
13. CSP Report
14. IVOA Website & Communications [Standing Item]
 - 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>
15. Report on the IAU General Assembly/Working Group
16. Date of next Exec meeting
17. AOB
18. Review of new actions

Next Exec Meeting: 12:30 p.m. EDT / 16:30 UTC on Wednesday, June 4, 2025 (hybrid)

Discussion

1. Roll Call and Agenda

- The names of the attendees are recorded.
- Regrets: Joachim Wambsganss (Markus Demleitner/MD present for GAVO); Encarni Romero Colmenero (SA³)

2. Review and Approval of TM126 Minutes

- The minutes are approved.

3. Review of Exec Actions for TM127

- **TM125.1:** BB will investigate how we can best attend/represent IVOA at International Data Week and MA will talk to Françoise about her past and current involvement with Data Week. SO will reach out to some members on the Data Week LOC. **IN PROGRESS**
 - Update: Messages were sent by SO and BB to SOC of Data Week (starting 10/13/25). BB will participate if there is a virtual option. MA is considering participating in person.
- **TM126.1:** FC to send reminder to the Interop list and convey urgency, and also email all in-person attendees and ask if their plans will change if the meeting is primarily virtual. **DONE**
- **TM126.2:** MH to include MM's bullet points from the AOB section (IVOA communication channels, IVOA web assets organization and efforts, and Interest Groups scope) in the next Exec agenda. **DONE**

4. Exec Membership Updates

- SO recognized important IVOA support by former member, Ajit Khembavi.
- Recognition of Sudhanshu Barway as new VO-India representative on Exec.

5. IVOA Communication Channels (MM of TCG)

- Three communication channels are used: email, GitHub history, Slack. Exec discussion concluded that email should remain the official IVOA channel for record, but all channels are welcome for group discussions, as needed.

6. Media Group Restart (MM)

- The IVOA has now two media activities: the web page and the newsletter. These activities need coordination and reporting channels.
- The IVOA Exec concluded that the Media Group should be restarted with the Web Coordination as Chair and the Newsletter Editor as Vice Chair.
- The Media Group shall include Chairs and VChairs of TCG, CSP and Exec.
- It will report to the Exec.

7. Interest Group Participation in TCG Discussions (MM)

- Not all groups are equally active. Each IG has a C (science lead) and a VC (tech lead), both participate in TCG discussions, making the group too large to manage for one-hour meetings.
- The Exec recommends that only VCs participate in the TCG meeting, while the Cs should participate in the CSP discussions. While participation in discussions is encouraged, it is not mandatory, if a given IG at a given time is inactive.
→ **Action for MM.** Discuss this recommendation with FC (CSP Chair).

8. IG/WG Chairs and Vice Chairs Terms

- Closed discussion

9. Future Interop meetings

- Northern Fall 2025 – Görlitz, Germany (ADASS dates: 9-13 November 2025, Interop held after ADASS)
 - MD is the point person for the Northern Fall meeting.
 - Northern Spring 2026
 - AN proposed Strasbourg as the venue for the 2026 Northern Spring meeting. The Exec gratefully accepted this proposal.

10. Project Reports [Significant Events Only]

- **GAVO**

- GAVO's Heidelberg data centre keeps adding resources at a rate of a few per semester; a particularly fun one was a service to collect ground-based amateur observations of the Gaia spacecraft during its high-brightness phase in early 2025 (<http://dc.g-vo.org/citigbot/q/browse/form>).
- We maintain and support our data publication package [DaCHS](#). Quite a bit of work went into type-annotating several areas of its source code with the goal of making it more suitable for community development. It also now returns VOTable 1.5 by default, and we have added a management interface for persistent TAP uploads.
- We keep co-operating with Germany's national research data infrastructure NFDI, for instance by bringing the VO's DocRegExt records into a format suitable for DALIA (<https://dalia.education/en>) and uploading them there (provided there's a proper license on them). We also have put in a major grant application to the ErUMData funding scheme with a goal of moving our data centres to the new DZA.
- Among our contributions to pyVO, there is a registry constraint on UAT keywords that includes semantics-based query expansion (<https://blog.g-vo.org/a-new-constraint-class-in-pyvo-s-registry-api-uat.html>); this meshes nicely with our continued involvement in the UAT steering committee.

- **VObs.it**

- INAF partnership in the Astro-CC project
 - will organise a Tech Forum in October (6-10 TBC)
 - event to engage the community on the topics of technical standards and interoperability frameworks to enable FAIR data services in the domains of astronomy, heliospheric physics, planetary science, and astro-particle physics.
 - web page: <https://indico.in2p3.fr/event/36318/> (registration will open soon)
 - a preliminary survey to tailor the event is also available.

11. Overall TCG Status (MM)

- The College Park Interop schedule has been finalized. There will be discussion of a few side topics:
 - 1) Standard Development Process, 2) Architecture, 3) Management of major standard updates.
 - There will be sessions on a) Obscore extension management and b) DM inside-outside communications.
- TCG last met by vconf on May 6, next meeting (hybrid) tomorrow morning (EDT)
- main activity has been setting up the Interop's schedule
- REC path is looking forward to final reviews from some groups on VOEvent-2.1 and StandardRegExt -1.1
- UMD interop will see two types of side topics, with regards to usual REC & feedback
- standards processing, major version transition handling, web assets architecture

- [ObsCore](#) & extensions
- modes and roles of *Data Models* now and forward
- after the interop, TCG plans a wrap up vconf at the end of June, an informal get-together at end of July and restart pacing from end of August
- Data Models modularity, levels/scope, and endorsement is an open discussion; another plenary planned for College Park.
- An effort is starting to discuss and promote guidelines about transitioning major versions (of protocols) in the Registry, server-side and client-side perspectives. There will be a discussion session with examples report in College Park.
- OPS IG / DAL / Apps are thinking about a convention to help provide common statistics on TAP (and other protocols) clients (agents) access.
- Discussion is starting for a revision of the Documents Standard
- Other activities:
 - Web assets (web, docs, ...): looking forward to switching to the new website before College Park
 - GWS->DSP renaming ongoing, a few pages and links still need updating
- Interop preparation status:
 - Programme drafted, looking for further input
 - 10 (parallel slots) still available
 - Headcount nearly definitive: ~40% TCG in person
 - Looking forward to solving session chairs situation at the next TCG

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

- No updates

13. CSP Status

- Deferred (FC absent)

14. IVOA Website & Communications

- SO is working on newsletter to be released at this Interop.
- MM: The new web page will be released soon after Interop.

15. Report on the IAU General Assembly/Working Group

- BB's term as IVOA-IAU coordinator will end in 2027. Besides thinking of a replacement, the Exec needs to formulate a long-term engagement plan.
- MA: Next IAU plenary is in Rome (2027) and we should plan a presence.

16. Date of next Exec meeting

- 4 p.m. EDT / 20:00 UTC on Sunday, June 1, 2025 (hybrid)
- Meeting agenda will be discussion and approval of new Chairs and Vice Chairs. and ap

17. AOB

- IVOA & AI: CC suggested emphasizing the IVOA-AI connection. SO remarked that IVOA-compliant data are AI-ready and we have appropriate IG; he also urged some caution.

18. Review of New Action Items

- **TM127.1:** MM to discuss with FC, the CSP Chair, the recommendations for Interest Group participation in TCG discussions.