

IVOA Exec Meeting: TM129



10 September 2025, 13:00 UTC

Virtual Meeting

Notes: MH

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Updated:

Distribution to exec@ivoa.net

Present (18)

Initials	Name	Institution	Email Address
AN	Ada Nebot	OV-France	ada.nebot@astro.unistra.fr
BB	Bruce Berriman	USVOA/NAVO, IAU-VO Liaison	gbb@ipac.caltech.edu
CA	Christophe Arviset	ESA	christophe.arviset@esa.int
EC	Encarni Romero Colmenero	SA ³	erc@sao.ac.za
JW	Joachim Wambsganss	GAVO	jkw@ari.uni-heidelberg.de
MA	Mark Allen	Euro_VO	mark.allen@astro.unistra.fr
MD	Markus Demleitner	GAVO (alternate)	msdemlei@ari.uni-heidelberg.de
MH	Marcy Harbut	USVOA/NAVO, Exec Secretary	mharbut@ipac.caltech.edu
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
TD	Tom Donaldson	TCG Vice Chair	tdonaldson@stsci.edu
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
Euro-VO	European Virtual Observatory	http://www.euro-vo.org

Acronym	Institution Name	Institution Website
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/twiki/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. IVOA Website
 - a. Status and roadmap for new website
3. Review and approval of TM127 & TM128 Minutes
4. Review of Actions for TM129
5. Future Interop meetings
 - a. Northern Fall 2025 - Görlitz (ADASS dates: 9-13 November 2025, Interop held after ADASS)
 - i. Travel and virtual attendance options for USVO
 - b. Northern Spring 2026
6. Project reports [Significant Events Only]
7. Overall TCG status [Standing Item]
8. Approval of new IVOA Recommendation(s)
9. CSP Report
10. Report on the IAU General Assembly/Working Group
11. Date of next Exec meeting
12. AOB
13. Posting Exec Committee membership roster online
14. Review of new actions

Next Exec Meeting: Thursday, November 13, 2025 at Interop in Görlitz; Postplatz 1, Deutsches Zentrum für Astrophysik (DZA). CET/Local Time: 17:00 to 18:00; UTC: 16:00 to 17:00

Discussion

1. Roll Call and Agenda

- The names of the attendees are recorded.
- Regrets: JJ Kavelaars (Exec Chair, CVO), Yan Grange (NLVO), Chenzhou Cui (China-VO), Enrique Solano (SVO), Antonio Chrysostomou (SKAO), Francesca Civano (CSP Chair), Simon O'Toole (ASVO)

2. IVOA Website: Status and roadmap for new website with guest Jeremy McCormack

- Jeremy McCormack is a data engineer for the Rubin Telescope and has been involved with the IVOA for almost 2 years. He serves as co-Chair of the Education IG and also manages the development of new websites.
- The IVOA website has been under development for a bit over a year by a small team of active individuals. The new site is not deployed, but in terms of infrastructure it's online with an iterative dev schedule.
 - The idea was to replicate the current content while simultaneously improving technical aspects and content.
 - Jeremy called attention to the new Search function that has all documents. The new site is also mobile-friendly because most users are on mobile devices.
 - G. Mantelet made an effort to port old newsletters to the website to have as a historical record.
 - The site is on GitHub using a Hugo framework, which is very good for developing static web applications. Content creators can author markdown files; no need to create complete html pages.
 - You're only working with the content: headers, text, links, etc. Hugo then processes it into html. Updates go through a GitHub workflow with change control.
 - We manage how things are changed with issues; they create an issue for each change for each issue, there is a full version of the site deployed for that issue. Deployment will be fully automated.
 - There is currently no formal roadmap developed. The main item is to deploy this new site to replace the existing ops site.
 - Content management will allow more contributors.
 - Question: How is content managed in terms of statements by IVOA, what text is there, what might we want to port from the wiki? These are items MM wants to discuss.
 - MM: The point about the website being staged is related to the building of the new web server that will host it. There was some disentangling with the documents on the site. The tech issues have

been resolved and mostly everything is set up. IT won't take much longer to put this into production. Still addressing the document library.

- Re: validation and management of the website content, the last Interop included a reinstatement of the Media Group, so coordination between the Media Group and IVOA Document Coordinator is needed.
- Text and information on the main pages need to be checked.
- Jeremy requests that Exec also discuss how to request major new features. There should be some formality in terms of Exec deciding on specific new features for the website. Also, regarding implementation, Jeremy recommends GitHub Projects, which groups different issues.
 - MM suggests the Media Group Coordinator attending IVOA Exec meetings.
 - Jeremy agrees; he sees it as bi-directional communication between the person managing the site and having a place on Exec.
 - TD: Avoid single point of failure by having a designated person or group to be in contact, they don't have to wait for Exec meetings. They can email Exec directly at any time. Also, it keeps the process as lightweight as possible. We are resource-poor so keep things simple.
 - Jeremy concurs, noting there is a distinction between content management and tech coordination. Content is about sharing information and publishing; tech is about adding features. Jeremy prefers that someone is responsible for grammar, tone, style, etc.
 - Jeremy also recommends that Exec create a process for site visitors to contact the IVOA with feedback, especially as the site grows.
- RN: We need to document how to use GitHub and PRs CMS to make contributions to the site.
 - People have remarked to him that there is no place posted online on who serves on Exec committee and who leads the IGs.
 - Jeremy: There is an enormous amount of information on the wiki that may be better placed on the website.
 - MM: The information is hard to find and there is some duplication.
 - Robert pointed out that none of those pages includes the full roster of the Exec committee.
 - MM shared these links:
 - https://wiki.ivoa.net/wiki/bin/view/IVOA/WholsWho#IVOA_Member_Organizations
 - <https://ivoa.net/about/member-organizations.html>
 - <https://ivoa.net/about/contacts.html>
 - MM said this is a bigger discussion.

- Jeremy said there is a Slack channel to bring up topics for the web team: #ivoa-web #ivoa-website-redesign

→ **Action: Mark will discuss these open issues with JJ.**

3. Review and Approval of TM127 & TM128 Minutes

- First motion to approve: CA; second motion: MM
- Both sets of minutes are approved

4. Review of Actions for TM129

- **TM125.1:** BB will investigate how we can best attend/represent IVOA at this meeting 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. **DONE**
 - **Update:** BB looked at it but it's not clear to him how IVOA would participate. Not sure who would be able to attend, probably our Australian colleagues. Simon said he was interested in attending but unsure if he's followed up.
 - MA: Had considered going, but he is not going. MA will ask SO if anyone is going and if so, can they report on International Data Week.
 - Can close this action
- **TM127.1:** MM to discuss with FC, the CSP Chair, the recommendations for Interest Group participation in TCG discussions.
 - **In Progress**, requires some discussion.

5. Future Interop Meetings

- Northern Fall 2025—Görlitz (ADASS dates: 9-13 November 2025; Interop held after ADASS)
 - Current registration numbers: 59 registrants, (6 remote) for Interop so far; please encourage colleagues to register.
 - Görlitz is in the state of Saxony close to the Polish border. There is a new German Center for Astrophysics. ADASS doesn't have many registrations yet, perhaps related to ADASS being in Tucson as well.
 - MD is handling details. It's a bit complicated because the venue doesn't technically exist yet, but he's optimistic everything will be in place in time for the meeting.
 - MA: Question has been raised about hybrid/virtual attendance for US colleagues.
 - JW: The annual meeting of the German Astronomical Society is being held there in September and they have it set up for interactive participation, so it's possible. There are financial aspects, but organizers can shoulder it. Prefer that people participate in person, but we understand it's not always possible.

- PF requests that the Exec meeting is hybrid.
- MA asked whether sessions are running in parallel or in a single room.
 - MM: Parallel sessions are possible; it depends on what the WG and IG organizers request. MM will push the TCG in September to have their topics and sessions identified.
- US participation:
 - PF: Unclear for now due to uncertain budget situation. Cannot promise to attend in person.
 - BB has requested travel but has not heard anything. It's more hope than an expectation at this point.
 - TD: Space Telescope participation will be very, very limited. At most, one person from MAST may attend ADASS and stay for Interop, but possibly not even that. It won't be people on the TCG.
- Early bird registration deadline is Sept. 15.
- CA said 58/59 registration is a healthy number.
- JW said there is a large contingent attending from China.
- Northern Spring 2026—Strasbourg
 - AN said they are looking at 8-12 June 2026, with the Exec meeting on June 7 (Sunday).
 - Happy to report there will be two rooms: one for 120 people, the other for ~50 for parallel sessions.
 - The meeting will take place in a historical building in the city center off the main campus where the observatory is located, and in a great location with lots of nearby restaurants.

6. Project Reports

- China-VO (report by CC)
 - A dozen representatives from China have registered for the ADASS and IVOA meetings.
 - Organized by China-VO (National Astronomical Data Center), the first Citizen Science Summit in Astronomy (CSSA) took place in Dalian, Northeast China, from 31 July to 1 August 2025.
 - The Summit featured 4 invited talks, including a virtual keynote by Chris Lintott (founder of Zooniverse) titled “Lessons from the Zooniverse: Citizen Science in the Rubin Observatory Era,” 17 contributed talks, 3 roundtable discussions, and 4 major meeting announcements.
 - The event proved highly productive and successful, with all presentation slides available at <https://nadc.china-vo.org/events/cssa2025/info/131>. Extensive media coverage,

including multiple English-language reports, can be found at <https://nadc.china-vo.org/events/cssa2025/info/134>.

- The summit formally established a working definition of Citizen Science: Citizen Science is a research model where the general public collaborates to address a specific scientific question, aiming to generate scientific outcomes. Or, in Chinese: 公众科学是围绕一个具体的科学问题，以产生科学成果为目标，由社会公众协作开展的一种科研模式。
- Euro-VO
 - A number of Euro-VO activities are being pursued in the Astro-CC Pilot project.
 - A Technology Forum is planned for 7-9 October 2025 in Trieste, Italy. Participation is open, details here: <https://indico.in2p3.fr/event/36318/>.
 - A VO School training event is planned for 2-4 December 2025 near Madrid. A first announcement will be made soon and participation will be via application.
- [VObs.it](#) (report by MM)
 - Radio obscure extension - continued contribution
 - Astro-CC 1st Technology Forum set up
 - Web assets: new server set up with services disentanglement
- OV-France
 - The French Specialized Commission for Astronomy and Astrophysics has renewed OV-France for a new four-year mandate, until 2029.
- US (report by PF)
 - It's time for Robert to rotate out and for Mark Lacy from the radio group to rotate in and be added to the mailing list. PF requests that both Robert and Mark be added to Exec meetings. No formal votes, but consensus-driven; this will help the group be more cohesive and aligned with IVOA, with the stated desire to keep the community involved, especially at this time.
 - MA said we've had three members of USVAO on the mailing list; the request is to have four.
 - PF said it will make her work easier and provide more redundancy.
 - CA said he has mixed feelings, but from what PF describes it makes sense. Other groups may request the same.
 - MA: We need to make the IVOA work. There is a concern that if all projects have multiple members, that would raise some issues. We need to be careful about multiple countries adding additional members to Exec. It's always possible to delegate meeting attendance. It's not for voting purposes, so in the sense of making IVOA work, he would be okay with it.

- This can be a temporary situation to address.

➔ **Action:** Add Mark Lacy to Exec Committee mailing list as fourth member of IVOA.

7. Overall TCG Status

- TCG met 2(+1) times since College Park's Interop
 - 26 June: with a wrap-up of the June Interop
 - (29 July): chat on IG/TCG/CSP connections
 - 28 August: round table highlights in view of Northern Fall Interop
 - New members welcome
 - Radio IG Vice Chair role still open, Chair term will expire (with a possible extension) in May 2026
- REC/EN in progress
 - VOEvent-2.1
 - RFC closed but waiting on last-minute implementations
 - Potential last-minute change to registry extension
 - [StandardsRegExt -1.1](#) - nearly ready
 - MANGO-1.0 - currently lacking reviews (Northern summer break)
- (among) other documents and standards
 - Vocabularies: calibration levels, object types (ongoing works)
 - [ObsCore](#) & extensions
 - HATS Note and further steps
- Trying to involve people in a DM hack-a-thon workshop
- Starting steps in a revision of the Documents Standard
 - Trying to focus more on take-up before REC stage
- New web pages
 - Should fit in Exec agenda (Media Group connection)
- astronet.ru publishing registry - still open (info updated)
- Next TCG vconf on 25 September: focus on Interop's program
 - AN: Is hackathon for next Interop or a remote event?
 - Not sure if it will be in place for Interop. Discussing this with the TCG to make it happen.
 - AN asked about the Media Group.
 - MM: The Media Group needs to restart and the roles overseeing the Media Group's content and technical parts must be defined and assigned.

8. Approval of new IVOA Recommendation(s)

- None

9. CSP Report

- Deferred

10. Report on the IAU General Assembly/Working Group

- MA said letters of intent for the focus meeting at the IAU General Assembly in Rome 2027 are due sooner than the December deadline for actual proposals.
- BB circulated a renewed letter that was submitted last time.

11. Date of next Exec meeting

Hybrid meeting at Northern Fall Interop: Thursday, November 13, 2025; Thursday in Görlitz; Postplatz 1, Deutsches Zentrum für Astrophysik (DZA). CET/Local Time: 17:00 to 18:00; UTC: 16:00 to 17:00

12. AOB

- Posting Exec Committee membership roster online

13. Review of New Action Items

- **TM129.1:** MA will discuss with the JJ the open issues re: website; will share with Exec any items that need discussion and consensus.
- **TM129.2:** MH: Add Mark Lacy to the Exec mailing list.
- **TM 129.3:** MH: Post Exec committee roster to Twiki