IVOA Exec Meeting: TM131

02 February 2026, 20:00 UTC

Virtual Meeting

Notes: MH

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Updated:

Distribution to exec@ivoa.net

Present (18)

Initials	Name	Institution	Email Address
AC	Antonio Chrysostomou	SKAO	antonio.chrysostomou@skao.int
AN	Ada Nebot	OV-France	ada.nebot@astro.unistra.fr
AM	Areg Mickaelian	ArVO	aregmick@yahoo.com
BB	Bruce Berriman	USVOA/NAVO, IAU-VO Liaison	gbb@ipac.caltech.edu
FC	Francesca Civano	CSP Chair	fcivano@cfa.harvard.edu
JJ	JJ Kavelaars	CVO, Exec Chair	jj.kavelaars@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca
JW	Joachim Wambsganss	GAVO	jkw@ari.uni-heidelberg.de
MA	Mark Allen	Euro_VO	mark.allen@astro.unistra.fr
MH	Marcy Harbut	USVOA/NAVO, Exec Secretary	mharbut@ipac.caltech.edu
ML	Mark Lacy	Radio IG Chair	mlacy@nrao.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
SO	Simon O'Toole	ASVO	simon.otoole@mq.edu.au
TD	Tom Donaldson	TCG Vice Chair	tdonaldson@stsci.edu
YA	Yerlan Aimuratov	KazVO	aimuratov@fai.kz
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/

Acronym	Institution Name	Institution Website
CSP	Standing Committee of Science Priorities	https://wiki.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/IvoaSciencePriorities
CVO	Canadian Virtual Observatory	https://www.cadc-ccda.hia-iha.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/
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. Review and approval of TM130 Minutes
3. Review of Actions for TM131
4. IGs' role among TCG and CSP activities
5. Exec Committee representatives and delegates
6. AI Mode for Exec virtual meetings
7. Future Interop meetings
   a. Northern Spring 2026 (Strasbourg; 7-12 June; Exec meeting Sunday, 7 June)
   b. Northern Fall 2026 (Perth; ADASS dates: 1-5 November, Interop to follow 6-8 November; Exec/TCG meetings on 5 November)
8. New IVOA recommendation(s): Approval
9. Project reports [Significant Events Only]
10. TCG report
11. CSP report
12. IAU General Assembly/Working Group report
13. Date of next Exec meeting
14. AOB
15. Review of new actions

Next Exec Meeting: April 2026 (see https://wiki.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/IvoaRepMin)

Discussion

1. **Roll Call and Agenda**

   - The names of the attendees are recorded.

   - Regrets: Yan Grange (NLVO), Chenzhou Cui (China-VO), Enrique Solano (SVO), Christophe Arviset (ESA), Encarni Romero Colmenero (SA³)

2. **Review and Approval of TM130 Minutes**

   - First motion to approve: BB; second motion: RN

   - The minutes are approved.

3. **Review of Actions for TM131**

   - **TM127.1:** MM to discuss with FC, the CSP Chair, the recommendations for Interest Group participation in TCG discussions. **IN PROGRESS**
     - Discussion to follow later in this meeting.
   - **TM129.3:** MH to post Exec committee roster to Twiki. **DONE**
   - **TM130.2:** BB will send the draft proposal to Exec for comments, with the understanding that it is still under development. **DONE**
     - **Update:** Focus session proposal submitted Dec. 10, 2025. BB wrote to the IAU and has not received a reply, nor is anything posted to the focus session website. ML notes he hasn't received a response to his radio surveys proposal either.
   - **TM130.3:** JJ to write a deprecation process that is similar to the current approval process and put it on GitHub; MA will review. **IN PROGRESS**
     - **Update:** JJ will reach out to MA.
   - **TM130.4:** SO to discuss with Andreas Wicenec the responsibility of organizing the Northern Fall 2026 meeting. **DONE**
     - **Update:** SO confirms Andreas is the primary local contact at the University of Western Australia; SO will coordinate with him.
   - **TM130.5:** MH to always include dates and location of future meetings in the Exec agenda. **DONE**
   - **TM130.6:** MH to create Doodle poll for the next Exec meeting for the first week of February 2026. **DONE**

4. **Interest Groups' Role Among TCG and CSP Activities (follow-on to TM127.1)**

   - MM and FC discussed group coordination and attendance between TCG and CSP.
     - CSP has experienced decreased group activity recently.

- o The TCG has roughly 30+ members, which makes more fruitful discussions more challenging in a one-hour meeting.
- o MM and FC suggest reviewing the rules and obligations for Chairs and Vice Chairs of interest groups to attend TCG and CSP meetings.
- o Another suggestion is to have IG representation at CSP meetings.
- o AN: Science IG Chair should automatically be part of the CSP. Maybe IG members could be invited to a special meeting every two months where there is time reserved for IG Chairs to join and request or present items of interest.
- o JJ asked if Exec would need to update the charter.
    - ▪ MM said it's not in the TCG charter. There are two documents with different names: one for TCG, the other for CSP. The TCG charter is from 2010; the terms of reference for the CSP was last updated in 2021.
    - ➔ **Action: MM will send a note to Exec about the IG roles.**

5. **Exec Committee Representatives and Delegates**
   - KazVO is changing representatives. Chingis Omarov (CO) is stepping back and Yerlan Aimuratov (YA) will now represent KazVO. Welcome, Yerlan!
   - YA said he has represented the observatory in the past and knows some Exec members.
   - JJ asked about the process of changing Exec representatives. Is it up to the member organization or is there an additional process for Exec/IVOA?
       - o MA looked up the rules of participation; each organization is responsible for designating a representative and the outgoing representative notify Exec, as CO has done in this case.

6. **AI Mode for Exec Virtual Meetings**
   - MH asked JJ to activate a Zoom feature that allows participants to save meeting captions to an external file so she can reference the transcript after the meeting has ended. This is a feature the meeting owner controls.
   - JJ wants to make sure no one objects to using this feature in future meetings.
   - RN said one of his teams used Zoom's AI notes feature with 80% accuracy, but often assigned actions incorrectly, which created more work to disentangle who was responsible for executing tasks. Someone still needs to go through the notes and correct the errors.
   - JJ noted this feature is to assist MH with taking the notes and actions, and not a replacement.
   - MH clarified that her request was only to toggle on a setting that allows her to copy/paste/save the captions that are displayed onscreen during meetings. The captions disappear with no record after the meeting when the setting is turned off.
       - o The caption files will only be used for taking notes. They will not be posted or distributed.

- No objections from Exec for using this feature as long as AI-generated assets aren't published publicly.

7. **Future Interop Meetings**
   - Northern Spring 2026 (Strasbourg; 7-12 June; Exec meets Sunday, June 7)
     - Exec and TCG will meet Sunday afternoon
     - Two rooms booked, including a large room that can accommodate 30 people in case the full TCG attends.
     - Monday-Friday meeting at the Old Tobacco Factory
     - Review of Indico draft web page
       - Menu: Overview, Schedule, Meeting Logistics (with maps), Social Events, and Registration
       - AN is organizing a planetarium visit and show and a conference dinner
       - MM said TCG prefers a morning meeting (vs. 2 p.m.) based on discussion from previous spring meeting
         - AN will shift the meeting block by 30 minutes and add a slot to the schedule to start in the morning
         - MA suggests a larger time block for Exec, but is sensitive to time demands of those attending both TCG and Exec meetings.
         - JJ requests extending the Exec meeting to 90 or 120 minutes.
         - Exec usually meets on Wednesday during lunch to discuss appointments. Food and drinks are not allowed in the meeting rooms at the venue, so the meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday afternoon.
       - MM will start working on the TCG schedule.
     - AN: France VO is covering some expenses
       - There is no registration fee for the meeting.
       - JJ said CVO is now allowed to sponsor meetings again and can provide support.
       - JJ asked AN to work out the budget and identify funding gaps for an appeal.
     - ➔ **Action: AN to adjust the schedule based on today's discussion and make sure there is a meeting room for Exec on June 10.**
     - ➔ **AN will also send out an appeal once the budget is sorted out.**
   - Northern Fall 2026 (Perth; 6-8 November)
     - ADASS dates: 1-5 November
     - Exec & TCG meetings in the afternoon on Nov. 5

8. **New IVOA Recommendations: Approval**

- None

9. **Project Reports**

- USVOA (United States)
    - The USVOA organized a splinter session at the AAS January meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. Talks included general information on the IVOA (Pepi Fabbiano, SAO), scientific impact of VO standards (Bruce Berriman, Caltech), Rubin & VO standards (Gregory Dubois-Felsmann, Caltech), and ADS/SciX new developments (Alberto Accomazzi, SAO). Robert Nikutta (NOIRLab) chaired a discussion with the audience. A popular request was to link implementation examples to the IVOA standards on the web page.
    - PF, BB, Vandana (Caltech), Robert, and Alberto also took part in the AAS data roundtable organized by the IOP (Astrophysical Journals).
    - Alyssa Goodman (Harvard) led a memorial celebration of Jonathan Fay (WWT developer).
        - PF said people have working examples of implementations attached to the standards, such as software to run on their own computers.
        - JJ said that would be an item for the TCG to discuss. MM said it fits with the implementation and validation process.
- OV-France
    - The annual French national meeting of VO will be held in Paris from March 9 to 11. We expect a large number of participants.
    https://indico.in2p3.fr/event/38441/
    - The OV-France yearly call for proposals is now closed. We have seen a significant increase in the number of applications, partly associated to the next interop meeting happening in France.
- VObs.it (Italy)
    - Planning a VO School to happen at the end of 2026.

10. **TCG Report**

- astronet.ru publishing registry issue: solved/re-entered (check undergoing, positive so far)
    - Radio IG deputy: still open
    - Edu IG deputy: resigned, position to be considered open
- Expiration/extension(s) happening in Northern Spring 2026 (besides open positions)
    - Registry WG: no extension
    - DCP IG: no extension
    - DM WG, DSP WG, Semantics WG: extension possible
    - TD IG deputy, Operations IG, SS IG deputy, Radio IG chair: extension possible
- Two TCG meetings since Görlitz (Dec. 11, Jan. 28)

- o namely: wrap up Interop and new year restart
- Animated discussion on MANGO RFC in December (touching DM role in the ecosystem), RFC sped up afterwards (i.e., January)
  - o Other RFCs going on: (closing) VOEvent-2.1, DALI-1.2, DocRegExt -1.0
- Continuous discussion on DM WG role and connection to other WG/IGs
  - o Restarted an effort to try to have a workshop/hands-on session to clarify/improve
  - o It would be useful to have Exec involve relevant projects/activities in this effort
- PEN review for DataOrigin -1.2: progressing, opens the (can of worms) of EN reasons to be
- DocStd rework slowly continues: mostly fixing clear issues, not a full rework
- IGs coordination role in TCG/CSP: only alerted, not discussed
- MM suggested Exec be involved in identifying relevant use cases for the Data Model Workshop.
  - ➔ **Action: MM to circulate document within Exec that is related to the data model workshop.**

11. CSP Report

- CSP is meeting on Feb. 9 at 9 a.m. EDT.

12. IAU General Assembly Working Group Report

- Deferred (BB had to leave)

13. IVOA Website

- Status and roadmap for new website
- Draft new website available: https://webtest.ivoa.info
- Git Hub repository: https://github.com/ivoa/ivoa-web
  - o Bug reporting and change requests: https://github.com/ivoa/ivoa-web/issues
- MM needs to contact those who work on the documents and those who work on the semantics to stop so MM can sync contents and switch the DLS. After that, everyone can contribute to the new website.

14. Date of next Exec meeting

- ➔ **Action: MH to create a Doodle poll to schedule the next meeting at 13:00 UTC sometime during the weeks of April 13 & 20, 2026.**

15. AOB

- None

16. Review of New Action Items

- **TM131.1:** MM will send a note to Exec about the IG roles.
- **TM131.2:** AN to adjust the schedule based on today's discussion and make sure there is a meeting room for Exec on June 10.
- **TM 131.3:** AN will also send out an appeal once the budget is sorted out.
- **TM 131.4:** MM to circulate document within Exec that is related to the data model workshop.
- **TM 131.5:** MH to create a Doodle poll to schedule the next meeting at 13:00 UTC sometime during the weeks of April 13 & 20, 2026.