IVOA Exec Meeting: TM59

Tuesday, Sep 08, 2015 @16:00 UTC

Notes: JE
Original: 18Sep15 - Early Draft
Updated: 28Sep15 – CA feedback

Distribution to exec@ivoa.net

Present:

Mark Allen	mark.allen@astro.unistra.fr	MA	CSP, Euro_VO
Christophe Arviset	Christophe.Arviset@esa.int	CA	ESA-VO
Bruce Berriman	gbb@ipac.caltech.edu	BB	IPAC
Chenzhou Cui	ccz@bao.ac.cn	CC	China-VO
László Dobos	dobos@complex.elte.hu	DL	HVO
Patrick Dowler	patrick.dowler@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca	PD	CVO
Janet Evans	janet@cfa.harvard.edu	JE	Secretary
Pepi Fabbiano	gfabbiano@cfa.harvard.edu	GF	SAO
Matthew Graham	mjg@cacr.caltech.edu	MG	TCG/TD
Sebastian Gurovich	gurovich@mail.oac.uncor.edu	SG	NOVA
Andy Lawrence	al@roe.ac.uk	AL	Astrogrid
Oleg Malkov	malkov@inasan.ru	OM	RVO
Areg Mickaelian	aregmic@yahoo.com	AM	ArVO
Joachim Wambsganss	jkw@ari.uni-heidelberg.de	JWM	GAVO
Patricia Whitelock	paw@saao.ac.za	PW	SA[3]

Regrets:

Francoise Genova	francoise.genova@astro.unistra.fr	FG	CDA
Ajit Kembhavi	akk@iucaa.ernet.in	AK	VO-India
Masatoshi Ohishi	masatoshi.ohishi@nao.ac.jp	MO	JVO
Fabio Pasian	pasian@oats.inaf.it	FP	Vobs.it
Enrique Solano	esm@cab.inta-csic.es	ES	Exec VC
Andreas Wicenec	andreas.wicenec@uwa.edu.au	AW	Aus-VO

Glossary:

NOVA – Argentina Virtual Observatory   http://nova.conicet.gov.ar
ArVO - Armenian VO   http://www.aras.am/Arvo/arvo.htm

AstroGrid - UK VO initiative   http://www.astrogrid.org
Aus-VO - Australian Virtual Observatory http://aus-vo.org.au/
BRAVO - Brazil Virtual Observatory   http://www.lna.br/bravo/
China-VO - Chinese Virtual Observatory http://www.china-vo.org
ChiVO – Chile Virtual Observatory   http://www.chivo.cl
CVO - Canadian Virtual Observatory   http://www1.cadc-ccda.hia-iha.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/cvo/
Euro-VO European Virtual Observatory http://www.euro-vo.org
GAVO - German Astrophysical Virtual Observatory   http://www.g-vo.org
HVO - Hungarian Virtual Observatory   http://hvo.elte.hu
JVO - Japanese Virtual Observatory   http://jvo.nao.ac.jp/index-e.html
OV-France - VO-France   http://www.france-vo.org
RVO - Russian Virtual Observatory   http://www.inasan.ru/eng/rvo/
SA³– South Africa Astroinformatics Alliance   http://www.sa3.ac.za
SVO - Spanish Virtual Observatory   http://svo.cab.inta-csic.es
UKR-VO - Ukraine Virtual Observatory   http://www.ukr-vo.org/
USVOA – US Virtual Observatory Alliance   http://usvoa.cfa.harvard.edu
VO-India - Indian Virtual Observatory   http://vo.iucaa.ernet.in/~voi/
VObs.it - The Italian Virtual Observatory http://vobs.astro.it/
IVOA - International Virtual Observatory Alliance   http://www.ivoa.net

Agenda:

1. Roll Call and Agenda (JE)
2. Minutes of FM58 and FM58S
3. Review of Actions
4. Project Reports [Significant Events Only]
5. TCG Status
6. Approval of new IVOA Recommendation(s) [Standing Item]
7. IVOA Standards Process Discussion (MG)
8. Future InterOps
   • Northern Fall 2015 – Sydney Australia (Oct30-Nov01; after ADASS)
   • Northern Spring 2016 – South Africa (May08-13)
   • Northern Fall 2016 – Trieste, Italy (Oct 21-23; after ADASS)
9. Date of Next Exec Meeting
10. AOB
11. Review of Action Items

A. Appendices - reports from VO projects see the wiki at:

http://wiki.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/IvoaExecMeetingTM59

NEXT EXEC TELECON: Oct 29, 2015 @16:30 AEDT (05:30 UTC)

1.   Roll Call and Agenda

The participants' names were recorded.

2. Minutes of FM58 & FM58S

The FM58 and FM58S minutes were accepted.

3. Review of Actions

ACTION 58S-1: MA – Draft revised Terms of reference for the CSP and make available to the Exec for review and feedback
IN PROGRESS – Draft in work - expect to circulate end of September and to be discussed at the Sydney InterOp

ACTION FM58-1: MG/CA – Contact Australian organizers and request a presentation by the Aus-VO at the Northern Fall interop
DONE – Aus-VO will have InterOp presentation by AW

ACTION F58-2: CA – Contact Hungarian VO for an update on their VO activity
DONE – László Dobos attending this meeting

ACTION T57-1: FG, CA, SG, BB – Review list of IVOA notes to date. 1) Data mine Notes that should go to ADS. 2) Understand topology of other Notes to help Exec data mine which type should go or not go to ADS.
IN PROGRESS – Group will plan to meet during ADASS

ACTION F55-7: CC/MM – Discuss Document backup and report back to Exec.
IN PROGRESS – CC has made 2 Virtual Machines available; Marco preparing document backup

4. Project Reports [Significant Events]

Project reports from ArVO, AstroGrid, China-VO, Euro_VO, SA^3 appear on the meeting wiki page. See: http://wiki.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/IvoaExecMeetingTM57

NAVO:
Keck SIAV2 Image access service has been released; Working on some updates; NAVO will present TAP/ADQL in Sydney

USVOA:
Planning a telecon at the end of September; Making good progress on migrating RofR at SAO – plan to have beta release by IVOA Sydney InterOp

China:
China-VO public service portal, AstroCloud, has come into shape. Five channels, including Observation, Data, Tools, Cloud and Public, provide users with a whole lifecycle management environment for astronomical data.

Education and public outreach funding was awarded to China-VO to develop advanced interactive digital planetarium system basing on Worldwide Telescope

(WWT).

ArVO
> Armenia (Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory, BAO) will host an IAU Regional Office of Astronomy for Development (ROAD), namely South West Asian (SWA). VO will be one of the priorities in SWA ROAD and ArVO will take responsibility for this.

5.   TCG Status

MG reported on TCG status. His summary follows:

- There is a new version of the SIAV2 PR and this will now enter a further TCG review phase. Addresses largely editorial comments that were made during the previous review but also the so-called 'Sesto agreement' about syntax.
- The RFC period for UWS 1.1 ended on August 8th and the editors are currently addressing comments received.
- Spectral 2.0 and VOEvent Transport Protocol are ready to enter RFC.
- A TCG telecon is planned for Sep 14.

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

There were no IVOA recommendations up for approval at this time.

7.   IVOA Standards Process Discussion

MG initiated the discussion in an email to the Exec on Aug28. He related that there is dissatisfaction within the TCG (and elements within the broader IVOA community) with the current IVOA standards process.

He summarized a discussion at the TCG meeting in Sesto. Some of the issues relates to ambiguities about what a reference implementation is and whether validators are required. He noted that there is also a feeling that we should be more practice led (learning from actual instances) rather than placing so much importance in the documentation process per se. The current standards review process also seems to be failing with many significant comments only coming in at the final stages (TCG review). This is obviously a controversial subject and can solicit many strong (entrenched) opinions but is clearly something that needs addressing.

CA suggested a 2 stage process: 1) Open discussion in Sydney in a session to encourage discussion and open brainstorming of ideas. 2) EXEC to nominate a small group tasked with making proposals to the Exec about improvements on the IVOA recommendation process. This group should contain representative from the TCG as well as the IVOA Standard and Processes Committee.

MG was encouraged to initiate stage 1 gathering comments/input on the current IVOA standards process and organize a session at the Sydney InterOp. CA added the Exec

would then be involved in how to proceed with the 2nd stage toward improving the IVOA standards process.

8.   Future Interops
- Northern Fall 2015 – Sydney Australia (Oct30-Nov01; after ADASS)
- Northern Spring 2016 – South Africa (May08-13)
- Northern Fall 2016 – Trieste, Italy (Oct 21-23; after ADASS)

CA expressed some of the difficulties encountered in determining who was in charge of organizing the Sydney interop meeting. Things are now being clarified with Kylie Williams as the LOC. Andreas Wicenec from Aus-VO confirmed to CA (prior to the meeting) that he will arrange a budget with Kylie for the meeting catering. MG and PD are in contact with her for the rooms requirements according to the programme.

MA noted the importance of keeping the IVOA web page and calendar up to date so people have current information about upcoming meetings. AM asked if there were guidelines for organizing an InterOp. The following doc was shared by PW who said she was using it to organize the Northern Spring meeting in South Africa:

   http://wiki.ivoa.net/bin/view/IVOA/IvoaInteropPOC

9.   Date of next Exec Meeting

Thu, Oct 29 – @16:30 AEDT (05:30 UTC) – Rydges World Square (ADASS Hotel)

10.   AOB

CA noted his abstract was accepted for a contributed talk at ADASS titled "*The VO: A powerful tool for global astronomy*"

11.   Review of Action Items

New Actions:
ACTION 59T-1: MG – initiate initial stage of gathering comments/input on current IVOA standards process and organize session in Sydney

Ongoing Actions:
ACTION 58S-1: MA – Draft revised Terms of reference for the CSP and make available to the Exec for review and feedback
IN PROGRESS – Draft in work - expect to circulate end of September

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