

OPTICON Board Meeting

Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía (IAA-CSIC)

Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th October 2014

Attendees: Thomas Augsteijn, David Barrado, Jean-Luc Beuzit, Andrea Bianco, Wilfried Boland, Vassilis Charmandaris, Colin Cunningham, John Davies, Michel Dennefeld, Philippe Feautrier, Thierry Fusco, Paulo Garcia, Francisco Garzón López, Gerry Gilmore, Roland Gredel (Chair), Roger Haynes, Isobel Hook, Norbert Hubin, Emmanuel Hugot, Richard Myers, Gudrun Pebody, Hermine Schnetler, Andrew Shearer, Iain Steele, Eric Thiébaud, Robert Thomson, Pepe Vilchez, Lars Venema, Colin Vincent, Filippo Zerbi

Apologies: Jeremy Allington-Smith, Tim Birks, Warrick Couch, Jean-Michel Goulon, Sebastian Jester (Project Officer), Denis Mourard, Martin Roth, Salvatore Sciortino, Paolo Vettolani, Lukasz Wyrzykowski

The meeting was generously hosted and extremely well organised by the IAA Granada.

The following papers had been circulated prior to the meeting:

Agenda and List of Participants

Minutes of the previous Board (Lake Como) and Executive (Palermo) Meeting: agreed, for note.

A management report, summarizing both the outcome of the previous FP7 grant activities (FP7-1, 2009-2012), with detailed finance tables and preliminary activities of the current contract, particularly included a detailed update on progress of the TNA activity.

Mid-term overall WP status document

Mid-term TNA status report

TNA facilities capabilities update

Outreach document

Submission to EC H2020 call for ideas

Submission to informal EC H2020 discussion, June 12014

Agenda

No changes were made to the Agenda

Pepe Vilchez, Director of the IAA, and Roland Gredel, Chair, welcomed the attendees of the OPTICON Board meeting.

On both days presentations were made by each WP lead, covering current contract progress, achievements, problems against aims, status, deliverables, and ambitions for a possible continuation of activity in a future new contract (H2020). In all cases progress is excellent against aims.

To view individual presentations, please follow

http://www.astro-opticon.org/fp7-2/agendas_minutes/board_meeting_1_2014.html

Substantive Business and Decisions

- 1) Roland Gredel was unanimously re-elected to a new term as Board Chair.
- 2) The decision agreed earlier by circulation to approve Konkoly Observatory as a full new partner of the current OPTICON contract was noted.

- 3) The final outcome of the FP7-1 contract was noted, including executive-approved minor rebalancing to reflect agreed work rebalances inside some WPs, the management budget underspend, and the outcome of the peer-reviewed TNA allocations.
- 4) The changes to partner TNA budget allocations in the current contract to match the reality of peer-review allocations were noted. The total TNA budget allocation is unchanged. Various minor cost transfers between partners inside extant WP budgets were noted.
- 5) The next pre-payment of EC funds will bring partners to, on average, 69% of allocations, subject to updated TNA budgets.
- 6) Contract amendments were approved to include CAHA as a 3rd party to Max Planck (required by the EC); to include a new CNRS 3rd party (Toulouse); to formalise some minor sub-contracts; and to add a no-cost management task looking at a possible outreach activity in a future H2020 contract.
- 7) All partners enthusiastically endorsed continuing work by the current management team to prepare for a proposal to H2020, assuming that efforts made to date (led especially by Roland Gredel and Wilf Boland, with a detailed presentation and discussion led by Wilf Boland) to have a suitable opportunity in the next relevant H2020-Infrastructures Call are successful.
- 8) Preparations for the H2020 proposal should include provision of summary proposals for WPs to be available by end-March 2015. Further development of the case will be made at/with the mid-term EC Review of OPTICON, which will be determined by the EC and is anticipated in early Spring 2015.

Post-meeting updates:

The relevant Call for Infrastructure-related Integrating Activity (IA) projects under H2020 is currently scheduled to be adopted and published in September this year. It is expected that there will be a call including opportunities for advanced communities.

The many iterations and contract changes required to bring the FP7-1 contract financial reporting to a conclusion are now complete. The report was formally approved in January, funds have been received and are currently being distributed to partners (13th February 2015).

