

Final version, 17 April 2008

OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

- Assessment of activity of the first six months of Cycle 2, updated program for the next six months
- Discussion of the census of Data Centres
- Review report to the Board (minutes of the meeting)
- Preparation of the Final Periodic reports to EU (due on December 2008)

WP leads are reminded that they have to gather information from all partners on their activities in their Work Package

LOCATION

The EuroVO-DCA PCT Meeting will be held at the Strasbourg Astronomical Observatory, France. The Observatory is located in the Downtown campus (Esplanade). Please refer to the directions to get there at:

<http://www-ulp.u-strasbg.fr/article.php/1/12/1-074-788-008/access-to-campus>

The "Observatoire" tram station (line C towards Esplanade) is located just in front of the observatory.

The meeting will take place in the "Salle de réunion Coupole" (turn on your right when entering) in the main building (with the astronomical dome). The building is #18 on this map: <http://www-ulp.u-strasbg.fr/articles/1074788008/1/campuscentre.pdf>.

EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

CNRS	Mathias DEPRETZ (Project Manager)
CNRS	Françoise GENOVA
ESA	Pedro OSUNA
ESO	Andreas WICENEC
INAF	Guiliano TAFFONI
INTA	Raul GUTIERREZ
MPG	Gerard LEMSON and Jens Zuther
NOVA	Andrey BELIKOV
LU	Anita RICHARDS

DRAFT AGENDA – DAY 1

08h45-08h50	Introduction: Objectives of the meeting
08h50-10h30	Presentation of WP progress and plan for the end of cycle 2 by the WP lead, including relevant activities from all partners (WP1-6: 20' presentation per WP, plus 20' discussion - WP2-2 and WP3-2: 10' presentation, plus 10' discussion), and to deal with the review observations and recommendations
08h50-09h30	WP1: Management (M. Depretz)
09h30-10h10	WP2: Definition of European DCA strategy (CNRS)
10h10-10h30	WP2-2: Scientific aspects of the project
10h30–11h00	Coffee Break
11h00-12h40	Presentation of WP progress and plan for the end of cycle 2 (continued)
11h00-11h40	WP3: Support to take-up and implementation of the VObs framework (ESA & ESO)
11h40-12h00	WP3-2: feedback from the VObs framework implementation by data centres (LU)
12h00-12h40	WP4: Theory in VObs (MPG)
12h40-14h00	Lunch Break
14h00-15h20	Presentation of WP progress and plan for the end of cycle 2 (continued)
14h00-14h40	WP5: Coordination with computational grid projects (INAF)
14h40-15h20	WP6: Support to data centres from other European countries (INTA)
15h20-16h20	Discussion on the results of the Census of Data Centres
16h20–16h50	Coffee Break
16h50-17h20	Review observations and recommendations (see Page 3)
17h20-17h50	Self-evaluation Matrix and Risk Register update
17h50-18h00	AOB and wrap up

Review recommendations

Recommendation 1: The project should look at establishing useful metrics of scientific impact, such as the increase in numbers and scope of registered European VO services over the time span of the project. Greater attention should also be paid to the publication impact of the project.

Recommendation 2: The panel felt that the intended efforts towards Virtual Observatory encapsulation of astrophysical theoretical modelling were admirable, but recognised the strong technical challenges involved in e.g. creating appropriate data models. The panel suggested that useful contacts may be formed with other groups performing similar research on grid-publication of ensembles of theoretical models, such as the climatology group METAFOR.

Recommendation 3: The panel felt that attendance at the first Data Centre workshop was “broad but shallow”, with good national representation, but relatively small numbers of attendees from outside France and Spain. The Consortium should take steps to address this for future events.

Recommendation 4: The panel recommended the development of the EuroVO website into a central repository for agreed solutions, tools and procedures to publish data. Clearer support should be given online on how to create a service from a given tool or program (e.g., a list of HOWTO documents).

Observations of the Panel of experts:

Planned milestones and deliverables have been achieved for the first reporting period. For an even better readability of the deliverables, a glossary with acronyms and abbreviations is recommended. The panel welcomed the provision of an additional workshop on Astronomical Spectroscopy and the VO in March 2007.

Collaboration between the members of the EuroVO-DCA Consortium has been excellent. The panel commends the project coordinator for providing strong Consortium leadership.

The panel commends the strong emphasis on maintaining the scientific relevance of the European VO, with ‘real life’ science examples in the Workshops and promotional materials.

The panel felt that attendance at the first Data Centre workshop was “broad but shallow”, with good national representation, but relatively small numbers of attendees from outside France and Spain. The Consortium should take steps to address this for future events.

The panel recommended the development of the EuroVO website into a central repository for agreed solutions, tools and procedures to publish data. Clearer support should be given online on how to create a service from a given tool or program (e.g. a list of HOWTO documents).

A panel member observed that the Data Centre questionnaire was being distributed rather late in the project, and should perhaps have been sent out at the start.