

Newsletter March 2014

RadioNet3 Newsletter

March 2014

RadioNet3 Board meeting at ESO Garching

Members of the RadioNet3 Board met at ESO Garching on 20 March 2014. The meeting, opened by a welcome address by the ESO Director General Tim de Zeeuw, took place in the new impressive ESO meeting room. The EC Project Officer Sebastian Jester joined the meeting via teleconference from Brussels. He contributed to the discussion with a presentation of the new EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon2020 (2014-2020). The main aim of the meeting was to verify the status of the RadioNet3 project following the Mid Term Review of November last year. All Work Package Leaders made a presentation of the activities done by their groups and of the implementation plan for the next two years. The Board also elected Patrick Charlot (Université de Bordeaux) as new Chairman since the terms for Rafael Bachiller (Universidad de Alcalá) as RadioNet3 Board Chairman expired. Tiziana Venturi (Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica) was elected Vice-Chairman.



At a coffee break during the meeting, the 10th anniversary of the EC funded RadioNet project was celebrated with short unofficial ceremony. A cake was sliced by the RadioNet3 Coordinator Anton Zensus and by the Chairman of the Board Rafael Bachiller and distributed to participants. The next day, 21 of March, the Networking Activity leaders had three hours discussion on their current activities, implementation plans and possible synergies.

RadioNet3 at the European Week of Astronomy and Space Science

RadioNet3 will organise a booth at European Week of Astronomy and Space Science (EWASS2014) which will be held at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland from 30 June to 4 July 2014. This booth will be a high-level representation of RadioNet3. More information on the EWASS2014 website <http://eas.unige.ch/EWASS2014/>

ASTRONET at the European Week of Astronomy and Space Science

ASTRONET will organize a Special Session at EWASS2014: "Astronomy towards 2025 and the Decades Beyond". The meeting is scheduled for July 2nd.

New global multi-messenger giants will begin to dominate the scene already around 2025, and major new players will enter the game. How do we coordinate the deployment of these facilities and manage the flood of new data efficiently?

How do we strike the right balance between new and existing facilities? And how do we train a new generation of leading scientists for the era of "Big-Science" astronomy?

This wealth of new opportunities and challenges is the focus of the session.

More information on the [website](#)

Travel Support by RadioNet3 Network Activity QueSERA

The RadioNet workpackage QueSERA (addressing Questions on Structuring European Radio Astronomy, see www.radionet-eu.org) is providing opportunities for travel to astronomers. A wider distribution of the call here available is advisable.

Call for proposals:

Travel support for advertising RadioNet science

The RadioNet workpackage QueSERA (addressing Questions on Structuring European Radio Astronomy, see www.radionet-eu.org) is providing opportunities for travel support in two categories. The aim of these is to entertain fellow astronomers who have typically not used RadioNet facilities with the excitement of modern Radio Astronomy. This is implemented by supporting 2 possible actions:

1. Colloquia at astronomy institutes or national astronomy conferences in Countries with little radio-astronomy tradition.
2. Talks at conferences with astrophysics topics that have made limited use of radio-astronomy techniques (so far).

Details on both actions are:

1. Typically RadioNet can support 8 trips at 500€ over the next 3 years to European destinations. Volunteers are sought to give colloquia or reviews at astronomy meetings in countries like Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal, Israel, Romania, Belgium, Czech Republic, Greece, Serbia, Austria and Switzerland. We expect speakers to spend some fraction of their allotted time summarizing the various facilities, Highlighting their scientific use of at least one of them in the remainder.
2. RadioNet can support a similar amount of travel of radio astronomers who have the opportunity to show a RadioNet facility result on a conference that has otherwise very little exposure of radio science.

For both categories RadioNet has established a small Programme Committee, which will review incoming proposals at any time, but advises interested colleagues to submit a one-page (pdf) summary of their plan at least 4 weeks before the travel date. A short (public) trip report, summarizing the impact of the presentation, is part of the conditions for receiving RadioNet support, along with all normal rules for claiming RadioNet support through JIVE.

Proposals should be sent to Aukelien van den Poll at JIVE, poll@jive.nl.

The QueSERA programme committee is also available for consultation through the same e-mail or by contacting any of its members directly:

Franco Mantovani (MPIfR, Bonn), Anita Richards (JBO, Manchester), Huib van Langevelde (JIVE, Dwingeloo), Tiziana Venturi (INAF, Bologna).

Future events supported by RadioNet3

Several events will be financially supported by the RadioNet3 Networking Activity Science Working Group in 2014. Information about three of them, namely:

- Extreme Astrophysics in an Ever-Changing Universe - Time Domain Astronomy in the 21st Century
- 12th European VLBI Network Symposium
- 44th Young European Radio Astronomers Conference (YERAC)

Extreme Astrophysics in an Ever-Changing Universe - Time Domain Astronomy in the 21st Century - Celebrating John Seiradakis' 40-year career

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Ierapetra, Greece, on June 16-20, 2014

www3.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/div/jhs/

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CONFIRMED INVITED SPEAKERS

Markus Boettcher (North-West University, SA)

Vik Dhillon (University of Sheffield, UK)

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Paulo Freire (MPIfR, DE)
Simon Johnston (CSIRO, ATNF, AU)
Aris Karastergiou (University of Oxford, UK)
Tom Marsh (University of Warwick, UK)
Maura McLaughlin (West Virginia University, USA)
Joanna Rankin (University of Vermont, USA)
Jay Pasachoff (Williams College, USA)

Special Sessions:

John H. Seiradakis (Aristotle University, GR)
Jocelyn Bell Burnell (Oxford University, UK)
Richard Porcas (MPIfR, DE)

TOPICS:

- Neutron Stars and Pulsars
- Compact Objects (White Dwarfs, Black Holes etc.)
- Stellar Objects and Optical Astronomy
- Astronomical Instrumentation
- Active Galactic Nuclei
- Extragalactic Astronomy and Cosmology
- Galactic Center
- Gravitational Waves and General Relativity

IMPORTANT DATES & NOTES:

All relevant information can be found at: www3.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/div/jhs/

Registration Deadline: April 30, 2014 or until all 80 available positions are filled

Deadline for Abstract Submission: April 30, 2014

Deadline for applying for Financial Support: April 30, 2014

The participation is limited to strictly 80 participants. Early registration is therefore highly recommended.

ABSTRACT:

Today we know that most phenomena observed in a time-domain astronomy are related to extreme astrophysical events or processes. Whether it is the explosion of stars in supernovae or the observations of flare stars, pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, blazars or active galactic nuclei, time-domain astronomy stretches across the whole electromagnetic spectrum and beyond. With increasing technical capabilities, the 21st century will see corresponding new instruments being developed or coming online, revolutionising our view of the ever-changing Universe.

Our ambition is to bring together different research communities and provide a platform for an exchange of ideas, experience and methods that may prove invaluable in promoting the unification of time-domain astronomy. Further, to approach these methods qualitatively similarly as probes of very

different scale physics in which different effects become dominant at different systems.

The conference also celebrates the career of Prof. John H. Seiradakis, who over the last 40 years has contributed to the field in many aspects.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

Marta Burgay, Vik Dhillon, Paulo Freire, Simon Johnston, Marcos Georganopoulos, Vicky Kalogera, Vasiliki Pavlidou, Jay Pasachoff, Dimitris Psaltis, Anton Zensus

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Emmanouil Angelakis, John Antoniadis, Michael Kramer, Busaba Kramer, Kosmas Lazaridis, Lilia Tremou

FUNDING & SUPPORT:

The conference is funded and supported by:

- The ERC grand FP7-IDEAS-ERC for the project BEACON
- RadioNet3
- Mitropoli Ierapitnis and Sitias

- Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy

On behalf of the Organising Committee,
E. Angelakis
Max-Planck-Institut fuer Radioastronomie,
Auf dem Huegel 69, Bonn 53121, DE

12th European VLBI Network Symposium

The 12th European VLBI Network Symposium will be held in Cagliari, Italy, on October 7th-10th, 2014. The first announcement was recently distributed.

SCIENTIFIC RATIONALE:

The Istituto di Radioastronomia (IRA) and the Osservatorio di Cagliari (OAC) of the Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica (INAF), on behalf of the European VLBI Consortium, will host the 12th European VLBI Network Symposium and EVN Users Meeting from October 7th to 10th, 2014.

The Symposium will be held in Cagliari, on the South coast of the island of Sardinia. At this conference the latest scientific results and technical developments from VLBI, and, in particular, e-VLBI and space-VLBI (RadioAstron) results will be reported. The timing of this meeting coincides with the first successful observational tests of the Sardinia Radio Telescopes within the EVN, and with a number of results from new and upgraded radio facilities around the globe, such as e-MERLIN, ALMA, and the SKA pathfinders.

Planned science sessions will include: Life cycle of matter in stars and galaxies; AGN and cosmic star-formation; Extreme Astrophysics; Astrometry, Geodesy, Space and planetary science; and Techniques & developments.

VENUE

The conference will be held in the main Hall of the 'Auditorium Comunale di Cagliari', that has a capacity of about 110 people. The venue is situated within the historical quarter of 'Marina' in the city center of Cagliari. Cagliari itself is an enjoyable city with a variety of attractions for all visitors. Furthermore, the southern part of Sardinia hosts among the most beautiful seashores of the entire island. Block bookings of rooms for the duration of the meeting at some Hotels close to the conference venue have been made. This meeting will also incorporate the EVN Users meeting and a trip to the Sardinia Radio Telescope site.

CONFERENCE WEB PAGE

Further information regarding this conference as well as specific details regarding the venue, accommodation, dates, program, etc., will be available shortly at the conference website and in subsequent announcements.

The conference website can be found at:

<http://evn2014.oa-cagliari.inaf.it/EVN2014/>

L. Feretti and A. Tarchi, on behalf of the SOC

YERAC 2014

The Toruń Centre for Astronomy at the Nicolaus Copernicus University will host the 44th Young European Radio Astronomers Conference (YERAC) that will take place between 8 and 12 September, 2014.

Dear Colleagues,

Toruń Centre for Astronomy at the Nicolaus Copernicus University will host the 44th Young European Radio Astronomers Conference (YERAC) that will take place between 8 and 12 September, 2014.

YERAC has been held annually since 1968 and has enabled many graduate students and new post-docs or other workers in radio astronomy to meet each other and present their current work.

This year we will continue the tradition of giving the early-career scientists an opportunity to present their research. Therefore, we encourage all participants to give a talk about some aspect of their work.

Participation is by recommendation. Supervisors/directors of institutes are asked to nominate their students and provide a supporting letter (see the registration process).

Registration opens on: 24 March 2014.

Official link: <http://yerac2014.astro.uni.torun.pl/>

See you in Toruń!

Organizing committee (yerac2014@astro.umk.pl)

Speed and Sensitivity - Expanding Astronomical Horizons with ELTs
National University of Ireland, Galway, 13-16 May 2014

Please see the conference web site <http://astro.nuigalway.ie/speedandsensitivity/>

Travel and accommodation information can be found on - <http://astro.nuigalway.ie/speedandsensitivity/accommodation.html>

Registration is open for this workshop and the preliminary programme is available on-line.

Please note these new deadlines:

Abstract submission: 8th April 2014

Notification of Abstract Acceptance: 15th April 2014

Early Registration (reduced rates): 22nd April 2014



Workshop rationale

With 8-10m telescopes now mature and Extremely Large Telescope (ELT) projects and their early instruments well-defined, time is ripe to consider the positive impact of new technology on science from such large telescopes in the longer term. This workshop will explore science drivers and concepts for new instrumentation for large telescopes. It will cover the interface between science, telescope, instrumentation and adaptive optics systems, including:

- * science drivers that push the current boundaries towards higher time resolution, sensitivity, spatial resolution, spectral resolution, polarisation and multiplex
- * the status of the European ELT and other large telescopes, their instrumentation plans and opportunities for implementing new ideas
- * technological developments including fast, low-noise and energy-sensitive detectors, VPH gratings and astrophotonics
- * novel instrumentation concepts enabled by such technology and by advances in adaptive optics performance
- * processing and analysis of new datasets

This 3.5 day meeting in Galway on the west coast of Ireland will include invited reviews and contributed talks. It will bring together scientists and developers of enabling technology from around the world to seed ideas for future generations of instrumentation.

The preliminary programme is also available online. For more information and to register, please see the conference web site <http://astro.nuigalway.ie/speedandsensitivity/>

Travel and accommodation information can be found on - <http://astro.nuigalway.ie/speedandsensitivity/accommodation.html>

Sent on behalf of the SOC:

Isobel Hook, INAF Rome/University of Oxford

Andy Shearer, National University of Ireland, Galway

Vik Dhillon, University of Sheffield

Aga Slowikowska, Kepler Institute of Astronomy University of Zielona Góra

Roberto Mignani, INAF/IASF Milan

Ric Davies, MPE Garching

Roger Haynes, Leibniz-Institut für Astrophysik, Potsdam

Suzanne Ramsay, ESO

3rd RadioNet3 European Radio Astronomy Technical Forum Workshop - Revised Announcement

11 Mar 2014

The 3rd RadioNet3 European Radio Astronomy Technical Forum Workshop "Metrologies at Radio Astronomy Antennas" - September 1 - 2, 2014 - **Revised Announcement**

The 3rd RadioNet3 European Radio Astronomy Technical Forum Workshop "Metrologies at Radio Astronomy Antennas" is announced to take place on September 1- 2, 2014 at Chalmers University in Gothenburg, Sweden and not as a Special Session of the 2014 IEEE International Symposium on Antennas and Propagation and USNC-URSI Radio Science Meeting as previously planned.

This workshop is a continuation of a series of technical workshops combining several aspects of engineering and operational issues at European radio observatories. It provides the unique opportunity to cross border the different communities and to learn what the others are doing and enhance communication between engineers, scientists and

communities and to learn what the others are doing and enhance communication between engineers, scientists and operators.

The full announcement is available [here](#) .

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