EUROPEAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
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EDITORIAL

The current newsletter, in addition to our usual news from OPTICON, RADIONET and EURO-VO, includes the details on the establishment of a new EAS award the Lodewijk Woltjer Lecture. We also continue the theme of presenting the 24 National Societies who are affiliated with EAS with a brief descriprion of the Astronomische Gesellschaft.

Furthermore, this newsletter is the last in which a familiar – though somewhat difficult to pronounce – name of Joachim Krautter, appears among the composition of the Council in the last page. The current president of EAS is reaching the end of his term in a couple of months, after serving the Society in various administrative positions for nearly 16 years. This is just four years less than the period the Society and its Newsletter have been part of the European astronomy scene! On behalf of all of us I would like to thank Joachim for offering his time and clearly endless energy, in achieving the goals of the Society. As most people in Council know well, and many of us EAS members can imagine, performing the various duties assigned to him, was not a walk in the park. A retrospective of Joachim on his memories about EAS and how it has evolved over the years will presented in the December 2010 Newsletter. More information on the EAS elections and the candidate can be found in a dedicated article of this issue.

Vassilis Charmandaris
University of Crete, Greece

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear colleagues and EAS members,

Earlier this year the Council of EAS decided to create a new award, the Lodewijk Woltjer Lecture. With this award the European Astronomical Society honors astronomers of outstanding scientific distinction by an invitation to present the Lodewijk Woltjer Lecture, an event that will usually take place at the EAS's annual JENAM "European Week of Astronomy and Space Science". With the naming of this award, whose statute is published in this Newsletter too, the EAS wishes to honor Prof. Lodewijk Woltjer for its outstanding scientific work and his invaluable contributions to European astronomy in the second half of the last century. A more comprehensive appraisal of the influence of Lodewijk Woltjer is given in a separate article. We are very happy that Prof. Woltjer agreed to the naming of the award and he himself will give the first Lodewijk Woltjer Lecture at the opening session of this year's JENAM in September in Lisbon, Portugal.

The Lodewijk Woltjer Lecture initiative of EAS, follows the Tycho Brahe Prize, which is awarded is by EAS 'in recognition of the development or exploitation of European instruments, or major discoveries based largely on such instruments'. This year's winner of the Tycho Brahe Prize is Raymond Wilson, the 'father' of Active Optics which he developed for the new generation of ESO telescopes, the NTT and the VLT, and which changed the world of large telescopes overnight, since no major telescope will be built in future without Active Optics. A more detailed appraisal of Ray Wilson is given in a separate article. As we all know, this year's JENAM will take place from

September 6-10 in Lisbon, Portugal and will be organized by the Sociedade Portuguesa de Astronomia and the EAS. Again the big European Institutions will present their topical results and we are very glad that for the first time CERN will participate at a JENAM with a major contribution. A review talk will be given on the strong overlap of the LHC program with astrophysics and a special session will be dedicated to particular topics of CERN and its LHC program. This emphasizes the very close connection between astrophysicists and particle physicists and we hope that this will be the beginning of a fruitful collaboration between the EAS and CERN. Like in the years before we shall have a number of Review talks, EAS Symposia, and Special Sessions, a very attractive program indeed. I very much hope that many of you will come to Lisbon in September; I am sure that we shall have a very exciting meeting.

This will be my last message to you as President of the EAS. My four-year term will end in September and a new President will take over. Actually, in September I shall have been in EAS Council for fourteen years, four years as a Councilor, six years as Secretary and the last four years as President. I think it is time for other people to take over, but I am also sure that I shall miss EAS Council in which I had a very good time during all those years. I do not wish to give my retrospective view right now, as there will be time for that in September.

Joachim Krautter
President of EAS

NEWS

Elections for the EAS Council

Under the Constitution (Article 12) and the Bye-Laws (Article IV) of the EAS, the Council has the responsibility to propose a slate of suitable candidates for vacant posts in Council. Last autumn Council appointed a nominating committee consisting of Birgitta Nordström (chair), Ian Robson, and Yaroslav Yatskiv to determine the slate of candidates for the Council positions that will become vacant this year. The following positions on Council are becoming vacant and the proposed candidates along with their brief CV, as provided by them, follow:

President:
Thierry Courvoisier, Versoix, Switzerland
Thierry Courvoisier obtained a PhD in theoretical physics at the University of Zurich in 1980. He then spent 4 years working with ESA's EXOSAT satellite at the European Space Operations Center (ESOC) of ESA in Darmstadt and 4 years at the Space Telescope European Coordinating facility in ESO in Garching. He joined the Observatory of the Geneva University in 1988. He is full professor there and leads the INTEGRAL Science Data Centre (ISDC) in Versoix near Geneva. His research has been centered mostly on multi-wavelength observations and interpretation of Active Galactic Nuclei and on high energy astrophysics.

Vice-President
Mary Kontizas, Athens, Greece
Mary Kontizas received her PhD at the University of Edinburgh, UK in 1977. She is Associate Professor at the Department of Astrophysics, Astronomy and Mechanics of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece. She had a visiting appointment at GSFC/NASA 1989-1990 and several visiting appointments at various European institutions (Trieste/OAT, Strasbourg/CDS, OHP). She served on the EAS Council as Member (1997- 2001) and Editor of the Newsletter of EAS from 1997 to 2005. She is member of the executive committee of the working group "Women in Astronomy" of the International Astronomical Union (IAU). Her research interests are centred on studies of extragalactic star clusters, evolution of galaxies, and on large scale star formation in galaxies. Since 2005 she participates in the European consortium DPAC for the preparation of the ESA mission Gaia.

Treasurer
Anne Dutrey, Bordeaux, France
Anne Dutrey obtained in 1991 at the Grenoble Observatory her PhD from the University of Toulouse, France. From 1992 to 2000, she was astronomer at IRAM where she was involved in the development of the Plateau de Bure Interferometer. She is currently working at the Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Bordeaux (LAB), as Directeur de Recherche (CNRS). She is expert in mm interferometry and she studies the physical and chemical conditions encountered in dust and gas disks surrounding low-mass stars, both from the observational and modeling points of view. She is also actively involved in the preparation of ALMA, since the early days (1995). She served already as EAS Treasurer for the period 2007-2010.

Councillors
João Fernandez, Coimbra, Portugal
Andrej Finkelstein, St. Petersburg, Russia

João Fernandes earned a PhD in Astrophysics (1996 – University of Paris) and is assistant professor (since 1999) at the Department of Mathematics of the University of Coimbra, Portugal. He is astronomer at the Astronomical Observatory of the University of Coimbra and the research areas are stellar evolution and history of astronomy, publishing

(around) 50 papers and contributions for meeting proceedings, in both fields, since 1994. João Fernandes was nominated in 2007, by the International Astronomical Union, as IYA2009 single point of contact for Portugal and he is (since 2009) the Portuguese member at the ESO Science Outreach Network (ESON). João Fernandes is member of the IAU and EAS.

Andrey Finkelstein earned his doctorate degree in 1990 at Ioffe Physical Technical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS). He is the director of the Institute of Applied Astronomy of RAS since 1988. He is a professor of radio physics at the department of St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University since 2001 and head of the department of radio astronomy of St. Petersburg Electrothechnical University since 2003. He got a rank of Russian Federation honored worker of science in 1999. He became a laureate of the Russian Government Prize in 2004. He is a vice-president of the Scientific Board of RAS on positioning, navigation and timing. He is a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, a member of Directing Boards of European VLBI Network (EVN) and International VLBI Service for geodesy and astrometry (IVS). A. Finkelstein is an expert in the field of relativistic celestial mechanics, astrometry, geodynamics, and radio interferometry.

All of the above individuals are members of the Society and have agreed to serve for the specific 4 years period. Groups of at least 20 Ordinary Members or (groups of) Affiliated Societies with at least 50 Ordinary Society Members may nominate additional candidates, provided such candidates have indicated in writing that they are willing to serve if elected. Such nominations are valid only if they reach the Secretary within two months following the date of the mailing of the slate proposed by Council. If no nominations are received by that date, the above-proposed members of Council will be considered to have been elected.

Joachim Krautter
President of EAS

EAS Members – Address Update Request

This is an urgent request to all of EAS members to update their personal details on the EAS Membership page, and specifically their e-mail address. As all EAS members are aware, a result of the changes to the EAS Constitution and Bye-Laws approved last year, was that communications between EAS and its members can be conducted via electronic means. This can only work, of course, if all your contact details are up to date. As much as the Society needs to have your correct current postal address, for this Newsletter to reach you, it also needs a functioning, up to date e-mail address for each member.

So please, do not delay and update your details now! It couldn't be easier. Simply point your browser to:
http://eas.unige.ch

and in the top right of the page, click on 'Login'; here you can login if you know your username or password, or request details to be sent to you.

Once logged in, click on 'Members' displayed on the menu and click on 'Update'. Please note that, to prevent malicious intent, changes will be validated by the Secretariat before the database is updated, so any change will need a few days to take effect.

As always EAS provides valuable services to its members, such as:
– electronic communications of news items relevant to EAS members,
– job announcements,
– the Tycho Brahe Prize,
– the yearly European Week of Astronomy and Space Science (JENAM),
– the EAS Publication service,
– a regularly updated list of Winter and Summer Schools that are being organised.

An EAS Membership provides, among others, the following benefits:
– a 20% discount for the EAS publication series of EDP Science,
– a discount for Astronomy and Astrophysics Reviews,
– a discount for JENAM registration fees,
– the possibility to apply for EAS JENAM grants,
– access to post jobs on the EAS jobs page.

Prof. Elias Brinks,
Secretary of EAS

Tycho Brahe Prize Awarded to Dr. Raymond Wilson

The European Astronomical Society announces that the third winner of its Tycho Brahe Prize is Dr. Raymond Wilson. The Tycho Brahe Prize is awarded annually in recognition of the development or exploitation of European instruments, or major discoveries based largely on such instruments. The Tycho Brahe Prize carries a monetary reward of 6000 Euros and is sponsored by the Klaus-Tschira foundation, which is based in Heidelberg, Germany. The Tycho Brahe Prize will be awarded to Dr. Wilson during the "European Week of Astronomy and Space Science" (JENAM 2010) that will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, from September 6-10, 2010.

Dr. Wilson has made in the last two decades of the 20th century contributions of the utmost importance to the technology of astronomical telescopes. His profound theoretical and practical knowledge of optics and his vision for achieving optical perfection led him to the concept of Active Optics which changed the world of large telescopes overnight: No major telescope will any longer be built without Active Optics. With Active Optics the shape and the alignment of telescope mirrors are constantly monitored and automatically corrected which leads to the best possible images obtained with a telescope. This concept was embodied first in the New Technology Telescope of the European Southern Observatory (ESO) and was carried to its logical conclusion in the ESO Very Large Telescope (VLT), a telescope array of four individual 8.15-m telescopes. Thanks to Active Optics, the consistently superb image quality of the VLT has made it the world's most successful ground-based observatory and re-established Europe in a leadership position in observational optical astronomy.

Dr. Wilson came to ESO in 1972 after 11 years as Head of the Design Department for telescopes at Zeiss Oberkochen. At ESO Dr. Wilson was the initiator and the Head of the Optics and Telescopes Group. After his retirement in 1993 he worked tirelessly to prepare and update his monumental two-volume monograph "Reflecting Telescope Optics" which has become a benchmark in the field. Moreover, he extended the two-mirror telescope designs to the three-, four-, and five mirror designs that are now being explored in the next generation of extremely large telescopes.

The Lodewijk Woltjer Lecture

The Council of the European Astronomical Society (EAS) has the pleasure to announce the creation of a new award: the "Lodewijk Woltjer Lecture".

With this award the EAS honours astronomers of outstanding scientific distinction, inviting them to present the "Lodewijk Woltjer Lecture" usually to be given at the EAS's annual 'European Week of Astronomy and Space Science (JENAM)'. According to the statute of the "Lodewijk Woltjer Lecture" the selection of the laureate will be by the Council of the EAS. The laureate will receive a medal and a certificate. The EAS Council selects the laureate, and the decision can not be contested.

With the naming of this award the EAS honours Professor Lodewijk Woltjer, one of Europe's outstanding astronomers of the second half of the twentieth century. First of all Lodewijk Woltjer made significant contributions to theoretical astrophysics, from his fundamental work on the Crab nebula and his studies on hydromagnetic equilibrium to the energy source of Radio Galaxies and Quasars. After serving as chairman at the Astronomy Department of Columbia University in New York (USA), a position he held for ten years, Lodewijk Wolter in 1975 became Director General of the European Southern Observatory (ESO). Under his leadership ESO established itself as one of the world's leading astronomical institutes.

Lodewijk Woltjer realised with great foresight what needed to be done in order for Europe to bridge the gap that existed in observational astronomy with other countries. He initiated the development of new instrumentation and telescope technology whose highlight, the Very Large Telescope, has become the world's most successful ground-based observatory and has re-established Europe's leadership in observational optical astronomy.

Twenty years ago Lodewijk Woltjer initiated the foundation of the European Astronomical Society and became its first president. A few years later Lodewijk Woltjer became president of the International Astronomical Union.

EAS would like to thank Prof. Woltjer for his permission to name the new award after him and Council is delighted that he accepted to give the first "Lodewijk Woltjer Lecture" at the opening session of the 'European Week of Astronomy and Space Science – JENAM 2010' on Monday, September 7, 2010, in Lisbon, Portugal.

Contact for further details:

Prof. Elias Brinks, Secretary
European Astronomical Society

News from OPTICON

Late last year we learned that OPTICON would receive a grant from the EC for 10 million Euro to cover the period 2009 to 2012. Although this was a savage cut from the 15 million Euro requested in the proposal the OPTICON executive was able to preserve most of the planned activities, all be it with cutbacks and at reduced levels of support in most areas. Due to the adjustments of the work packages, and a desire to reduce administrative costs, the number of formal partners shrank from 47 in FP6 to 22 in FP7. However this does not mean that the OPTICON community is smaller, since many of the activities, especially trans-national Access and networking, remain open to everyone. So, for the next few years OPTICON will continue with a programme that builds on its successes in FP6 and which looks rather similar in general outline to our FP6 activities. Full details of the membership, management and activities of OPTICON in FP7 can be found at our new look web-site, which retains its old address of www.astro-opticon.org

In FP7 OPTICON will support 6 technology development projects rather similar in concept to the JRAs which were carried out in FP6. These will be described in more detail in a future article once they are well underway and have some results to present.

There are also a number of networking activities bringing together groups across Europe with common interests so that they can develop integrated plans for the future.
Several of these groups and activities are new.

The solar community have formed an OPTICON supported network called EAST, the European Association of Solar Telescopes. The main objective of the EAST consortium is to align the European solar community behind an agreed roadmap for the development of an advanced European Solar Telescope. This new world class facility will enhance, and in some cases replace, the existing solar facilities in Tenerife. A step in this direction has been that all solar observing supported under the OPTICON Trans-National Access programme, together with the time on solar telescopes which forms part of the Canaries Observatories International Time Programme are being allocated by a single panel.

The formation of a common solar Time Allocation Committee, or TAC, represents an important step towards closer integration of the solar facilities within the OPTICON FP7 framework. The night-time telescopes in OPTICON's Trans-National Access programme are also moving towards even greater integration and coordination. As part of this move, from semester 2010B the funding for the programme will be pooled, and the proposals for OPTICON time at all the telescopes will be reviewed together by a single Time Allocation Committee. This TAC will comprise of 7 scientists of international standing, covering a range of scientific fields and drawn from different countries. This is to ensure network-wide competition and uniform review criteria for all proposals, wherever they come from and wherever they are seeking time. Nominations for TAC members will be invited from the time allocation committees of the telescopes involved in the programme so that the overall standard of the OPTICON proposals can be calibrated against those sent to national TACs.

This is an important change to the way Trans-National access has been supported in the past and users who have had support under FP5 and FP6 should check the OPTICON website in the new year to understand the new procedures. The OPTICON call will most likely open on 1 February 2010 and close on the 28th of that month. Note that international proposals may still be accepted by some telescopes in the network but such proposals will not be eligible for Travel support under the OPTICON programme.

To support this new process a common, web-based proposal submission tool called Northstar will be used for all telescopes. Northstar was developed by ASTRON in the Netherlands, originally for Radio Telescopes and is being adopted, with OPTICON support, for use on optical and infrared telescopes. Versions of Northstar are already in use on some telescopes, including UKIRT, the OHP and TBL telescopes and for Dutch users of the ING. A prototype of the OPTICON version, which allows–multi telescope proposals, will be released for beta-testing very soon. If you like to familiarise yourself with this tool, and help in the beta-testing, please contact the OPTICON Project Scientist, John Davies using the adress john.davies@stfc.ac.uk or visit the OPTICON website.

A European Telescope Strategy Review Committee has been set up jointly by OPTICON and ASTRONET to consider how Europe's existing suite of 2-4 m telescopes can be matched to the needs of the next decade and to the ASTRONET science vision. This panel has met several times and conducted a web-based consultation over the summer. To assist the panel with its information gathering OPTICON organised a session on Europe's medium sized telescopes at the 2009 JENAM. This was well attended and the presentations are posted at the JENAM website at **http://star.herts.ac.uk/ewass/sessS.html** and can be accessed via the OPTICON webpage.

A related activity, spearheaded by Michel Dennefeld of Paris, is intended to raise awareness of the sorts of front line scientific topics likely to win telescope time on major European telescopes. The idea is to introduce to new communities both the range of facilities open to them and how they can join the mainstream of researchers using these facilities. The first such conference was held in Bulgaria in October, soon after a traditional NEON observational school held at the Rhozen Observatory. Further NEON schools and at least one more of these conferences will be held in the coming years of FP7.

So the future for OPTICON remains bright. We expect a further infrastructures call from the EC sometime in the next year or two which will allow us to bid for funds to continue our activities until the end of FP7. When the details of this call become clear, the OPTICON board will invite suggestions from the community for activities which could form a part of this new proposal.

For more information on the project, or to request a visit for discussions on how you can become involved feel free to contact the project scientist John Davies (john.davies@stfc.ac.uk) or the PI, Prof Gerard 'Gerry' Gilmore (gil@ast.cam.ac.uk)

NEWS FROM RADIONET

RadioNet is an EC integrating activity that brings together all the major radio observatories in Europe, covering the frequency range of 10 MHz to 1 THz. Its overall aim is to support the radio astronomy community in general, and to improve the capabilities of, and enhance access to, the major radio astronomy facilities in Europe and beyond. So to speak it is the radio equivalent of OPTICON.

RadioNet FP7 has started on January 2009 and has now reached almost its half point. It is funded for three years (until the end of 2011) and received 10 Million Euros from the EU. It is the continuation of the very successful RadioNet FP6 programme and involves 26 partners contributing effort to 18 different work packages (5 Networking Activities, 4 Joint Research Activities and 9 Transnational Access programmes).

The Transnational access programmes are one of the most important integrated parts of RadioNet FP7. These programmes aim at improving significantly the access of European astronomers to the major radio astronomical infrastructures that exist in, or are owned and run by, European organizations. This suite of facilities offers a unique array of capabilities, unmatched anywhere in the world. RadioNet FP7 draws together all of the European radio facilities under one umbrella; to enable the European user community to have easy and transparent access to the entire range of facilities; and to offer them an integrated, professional and consistent level of user support.

Observing time at seven European telescopes (or arrays) is available to astronomers from EU Member States and Associated States that meet certain criteria of eligibility (for details please check **http://www.radionet-eu.org/transnational-access)**. Time on these facilities is awarded following standard selection procedures for each TNA site, mainly based on scientific merits and feasibility. New users, young researchers and users from countries with no similar research infrastructures, are specially encouraged to apply. User groups who are awarded observing time, following the selection procedures and meeting the criteria of eligibility, will gain free access to the awarded facility, including infrastructure and logistical support, scientific and technical support usually provided to internal users and travel and subsistence grants for one of the members of the research team.

One of the aims of RadioNet is also to keep the radio facilities state-of-the-art. In order to achieve this, there are four Joint Research Activities (JRA) defined that form a coherent project plan geared towards providing innovative developments to support the scientific programmes on the RadioNet telescopes.

A common element to all the JRAs is that they directly address the effectiveness with which the existing radio telescopes can be deployed in the next decade. For example, the deployment of multi-pixel detectors will revolutionise single-dish astronomy by enhancing the large scale imaging speed by many orders of magnitude. The development of multi-pixel arrays is a theme common to two of the JRAs: AMSTAR+ (focal plane Arrays at Millimetre/Sub-millimetre wavelengths and THz frequencies for Astronomical Research) for mm/sub-mm telescopes and APRICOT (All Purpose Radio Imaging Cameras on Telescopes) for cm/mm telescopes. Although the goals of the two JRAs are similar, i.e. to provide major enhancements to the field-of-view and, thereby survey capabilities of single-dish telescopes, the techniques and technologies involved are very different in the two wavelength regimes. Moreover, the AMSTAR+ and APRICOT projects have a strategic role in securing the supply of Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuits (MMICs) in Europe.

The volume of data which will be produced by multi-pixel cameras on single-dishes will be similar to that generated by the new generation of interferometers. They will require flexible, powerful, digital backends, which can be used for a variety of different applications. The JRA UniBoard is developing a generic digital processing board that will enhance the signal processing capabilities of the existing telescopes for spectroscopy, pulsar searches and high-resolution interferometry. Similarly, the software JRA ALBiUS (Advanced Long Baseline interoperable User Software) will provide the software tools needed to fully exploit the emergence of new and upgraded telescopes, such as e-MERLIN and LOFAR.

Last but not least the third part of RadioNet consists of the Networking Activities. They support the broad radio astronomy community (scientists, operators and engineers) in disseminating results, initiating new collaborations, maintaining and enhancing expertise, spreading best practice and supporting the essential job of protecting the radio spectrum from non-passive users.

Furthermore, radio astronomy stands on the brink of a new golden era – in particular, several large facilities are either coming on-line, are under construction or in an advanced preparatory phase e.g. APEX (Atacama Parthfinder EXperiment), LOFAR (LOw Frequency ARray), Yebes-40m, SRT (Sardinia Radio Telescope), ALMA (Atacama Large Millimetre Array) and SKA (Square Kilometre Array). In addition, many of the existing radio telescopes in Europe and elsewhere, have undergone, or are in the process of undergoing, significant upgrades. In Australia and South Africa, the respective SKA pathfinders – ASKAP (Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder) and MeerKAT (Karoo Array Telescope) – have each received funding of about 75 M€. All these instruments are set to transform radio astronomy in its broadest context, and the community is expected to grow significantly over the course of the following years, embracing the full extent of the wider global astronomical community. RadioNet aims to play an important coordinating role in this process.

For more information on the project, please contact the Project Scientist: Corina Vogt (vogt@astron.nl) or the PI, Michael Garrett (garrett@astron.nl).

EURO-VO News

The main focus of the European Virtual Observatory (EURO-VO) during the past six months has been the organisation of VO Days and Workshops, in a continuous effort to make European Astronomers aware of the possibilities the Virtual Observatory (VO) has to offer.

The second EuroVO-AIDA hands-on workshop took place in Strasbourg, France, on January 25-28 2010, and hosted 39 PhD students and young postdocs. During four full days, the participants were coached by 15 scientific and technical VO specialists and carried out a number of small pre-conceived and own science projects. The feedback, collected both verbally and in written forms was extremely positive. 30 out of the 33 participant that returned the questionnaire characte-

rized the school's overall organization and usefulness as «very good» or «excellent».

A series of VO days, with formats following closely that of the EURO-VO hands-on Schools were organized in Geneva (January 21, 2010), Bonn (April 09, 2010), Groningen (April 27, 2010) and Stockholm (June 8 and 9, 2010). A VO School was also held in Strasbourg targeting specifically the French astronomical community on June 2-4, 2010. The Spanish VO (SVO) held their second Practical Course on the VO in Tenerife on March 4 and 5, 2010. Finally, the Italian VO effort in collaboration with INAF-OATs and the Euro VO-AIDA project, «VO-day ... in Tour», concluded their tour at 12 Italian Observatories on March 25 2010, with the VO day in Catania. For links to the individual events and presented material, check the EURO-VO Calendar: **http://www.euro-vo.org/pub/related/calendar.html**

The EURO-VO research initiative announced in April 2008 resulted in a recent publication in MNRAS. The project (Scale lengths in Disk galaxies, PI K. Fathi from Stockholm University) studies the scale length of about 35000 galaxies on all five SDSS bands and involved the handling of a total volume of >850 GB. The invaluable results **(http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2010arXiv1004.1507F)** form unprecedentedly solid measurements of astrophysical observables, ideal for testing the results of forthcoming state of the art cosmological simulations of galaxy formation and evolution of the Hubble sequence.

The EURO-VO Science Advisory Committee has recently been renewed. The new members **(http://www.euro-vo.org/pub/fc/sac.html)** met for the first time on December 14 2009 and were introduced to the activities and goals of the EURO-VO. They will be meeting again on June 14 2010 to provide input to the project.

The EURO-VO web pages **(http://www.euro-vo.org/pub/)** are always kept updated with links to tools, services, news and events. A growing list of scientific workflows is also available through these pages: **http://www.euro-vo.org/pub/fc/workflows.html**

Announcements are circulated via the EURO-VO mailing list, with more than 520 subscribed members. To join, go to **http://www.euro-vo.org/pub/fc/subscribe.html** and enter your e-mail address.

Evanthia Hatziminaoglou on behalf of the EURO-VO Facility Centre

JENAM 2010

EAS is pleased to issue the call for contributions to the Joint European and National Astronomy Meeting 2010 (JENAM 2010) - The European Week of Astronomy and Space Science. This year this exciting event, spanning front line topics in Astronomy and Space Sciences and technologies, is co organized with 20th Annual Portuguese meeting of Astronomy and it will be taking place in Lisbon (Portugal) in the week of 6-10 September 2010.

JENAM 2010 will host the following seven Symposia: From Varying Couplings to Fundamental Physics - Environment and the Formation of Galaxies: 30 years later - Dwarf Galaxies: Keys to Galaxy Formation and Evolution - From Macro to Micro Stellar Transits - Star Clusters in the Era of Large Surveys - Science Cases for Optical and IR Interferometry - The Square Kilometer Array: Paving the way for the new 21st century radio astronomy paradigm

In addition, ten Special Sessions will take place. These are: Astronomy Challenges for Engineers & Computer Scientists - Radio Astronomy in Iberia - ESO/ALMA Early Science: opportunities and tutorials - ESA: Elements of the science programme - Astronomy Planning in Europe: Towards an Even Stronger European Astronomy - New Trends in Global Astronomy Education - Education and Outreach after IYA2009 in Europe - Amateur and professional astronomers in Europe: how pro-am cooperation is changing astronomy - The 30 years of IRAM

The above will be supplemented by a number of Plenary, invited and highlight talks, exhibitions and as well as other parallel events.

Information about abstract submission and grant request forms can now be accessed at the dedicated website **http://www.jenam2010.org/**

The EAS Affiliated Societies

The Astronomische Gesellschaft

The Astronomische Gesellschaft (Astronomical Society, abbr.: AG) was founded in 1863 as an international society dedicated to the advancement of science by supporting projects which require systematic cooperation of many people.

At that time, important joint tasks were, e.g., the publication of the Catalogue of the AG featuring the position of all stars in the northern hemisphere up to the ninth magnitude and of the History and literature of brightness variation of variable stars.

But very early already other astronomical and astrophysical subjects have been discussed, scientific aims and results have been presented, and worldwide contacts have been made at the regular meetings.

Today, the AG is a modern astronomical society and its activities are characterised by and driven on, e.g., current scientific topics, the networking between astronomers, the support of talented young people, and the increasing importance of public outreach.

Primary Activities are

- the representation of the interests and goals of astronomers
- the organization of scientific meetings and conferences
- the publication of scientific literature
- the promotion of young astronomers
- the awarding of prizes in recognition of outstanding scientific achievements
- the promotion of astronomical education at schools, and,
- public outreach.

Publications

Currently the AG regularly publishes the following journals:

- The Mitteilungen der AG including annual reports of institutions working in the field of astronomy in Germany, German-speaking Switzerland, and Austria, as well as obituaries, reports of the Executive Committee, e.g., on meetings, minutes of the regular meetings of the General Assembly, reports on the development of membership and the Treasurer's reports
- The Reviews in Modern Astronomy featuring the key note and highlight talks given at the Society's meetings
- Each year a special issue of the Astronomical Notes (Astronomische Nachrichten) is published.

Awards

The AG awards several prizes to honour persons with outstanding achievements in astronomical research.

- The Karl Schwarzschild Medal to recognize outstanding scientific contributions. The awarding is accompanied by the Karl Schwarzschild Lecture held at the scientific annual meeting and their publication by the AG.
- The honorary membership to individuals for their exceptional services to the Society.
- The Ludwig Biermann Award for outstanding young astronomers.
- The Bruno H. Bürgel Prize for excellent popular representations of astronomical research results.
- The Hans-Ludwig Neumann Prize in recognition of the advancement of astronomy at schools

In addition, there is an exceptional prize: The AG promotes pupils as part of the Jugend forscht (Youth's Research) Award and invites the German winners of the geo/space science section to the following scientific meeting.

Travel grants for young astronomers

The Society supports young astronomers by travel grants that allow them to visit other institutions or to attend conferences.

Working groups

- History of Astronomy (Astronomiae Historia).
  This group was founded during the annual meeting at Jena in 1992 and is open to all members of the AG. Its aims are the organisation of scientific meetings, the provision of information on the history of astronomy by editing publications and the undertaking of joint projects.
- School Commission
- At the Regular General Assembly at Berlin in 2002, the AG constituted a commission Astronomy in School Education. It is to initiate the education of astronomical topics in schools at a higher than normal level, and to generally increase the acceptance of natural sciences at schools. In the long run the group intents to create a network for teachers and to influence the curricula.

Job Market

The AG compiles a free job register with vacant positions and applications for a position in the field of astronomy (www.astronomische-gesellschaft.de/jobregistereng.html)

The next Annual fall meeting of the AG will take place in Bonn from September 13th to 17th, 2010. For further information visit **www.astronomische-gesellschaft.de**

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