



RADIONET SPOOR MEETING / TELECONFERENCE

DATE	May 09, 2018	TIME	11 - 17 (CEST)
PLACE	Schiphol/NL		
PARTICIPANTS	SPOOR Group: Michael Garrett (UMAN, minutes); Rainer Mauersberger (MPIfR); Izabela Rottmann (MPIfR); Francisco Colomer (JIV-ERIC); René C. Vermeulen (ILT); Anton Zensus (MPIfR); Guests: J. Conway (OSO), Juris Freimanis (VENT), Tiziana Venturi (INAF, Board Chair), Carole Jackson (ASTRON);		
MATERIAL	https://events.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/indico/event/71/		
VERSION	Draft (vers. 28.05.2018)		
NEXT MEETING	October 11, 2018		
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Brief national Radio Astronomy development/funding updates – All2) Brief Updates from pan-national organisations<ul style="list-style-type: none">• JIVE and the future evolution of the ERIC (EC funding, scope etc.) - FC• EVN vision – TZ/JEC• Brief updates: IRAM - ? , ESO - ? , ILT - RCV, CRAF – RCV, YERAC (FC)3) Future of RadioNet, European Radio Astronomy – MAG/All<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EC update – AZ• EC & Funding agency engagement (see also AG report attached) - AZ/All• ASTRONET process - ? • Simplifying the governance of European Radio Astronomy (see also AG report attached) - CJ• SKA operational funding and other ERA threats (see also AG report attached)• European Radio Astronomy Opportunities • Summary of Meeting & Actions – MAG		

Leading of the meeting: M. Garrett (SPOOR leader)



Minutes



The second SPOOR face-to-face meeting was held on the 9th of May 2018 in Hoofddorp, the Netherlands. Members of the core group attended, and several board members. The meeting started with national updates from the participants - highlights included the publication of a Strategic Review of Radio Astronomy in the UK, new initiatives in Italy that should see the continued operations of the 3 main VLBI antennas, upgrades of the MC and NT antennas and the appointment of many new positions. Latvia reported on a very difficult funding situation that showed no signs of improving. JIVE noted that an FP9 ERIC call is foreseen by the EC. The EVN Vision exercise is well underway with presentations from Tiziana Venturi and John Conway - the goal is to see a full draft of the vision to be available at the EVN Symposium (/Users meeting) in October. The special EVN meeting at EWASS had been very successful and the Consortium Board was discussing ways in which to make significant upgrades to various operations, including data rates which have been static for a number of years. LOFAR is progressing towards a major upgrade - "LOFAR 2.0". Many countries were busy trying to secure funding for the SKA, in particular the NL. In Germany, participation in the SKA is being pursued via involvement with the Dish design and other initiatives - full membership did not appear likely in the short-term.

A significant part of the meeting focused on RadioNet and how the future might unfold. AZ reported that the EC would not fund RadioNet again in its current form. There was a possibility to join with OPTICON in submitting a proposal that would cover Astronomy as a domain. The focus of this pilot was expected to be TNA, rather than NA and JRAs. Funding for the pilot was expected to be 15M Euro over 4 yr (total). The Call deadline could be as early as March 2020.

The SPOOR group considered how we should coordinate Radio Astronomy in Europe without RadioNet. Carole Jackson made a presentation on some of the options. Members of the SPOOR group presented personal visions of the future. JIVE could play a major role in filling some of the gaps RadioNet would leave behind - especially in the area of Networking Activities. A European Radio Observatory was attractive to some but not all parties - an ERO that combined the strengths of all the European radio telescopes, and engaged directly with the various national funding agencies was seen as interesting concept to be explored further.

It was agreed the group would continue to develop personal visions for the future. A short adhoc meeting would be organised during the EVN Symposium (Thursday 3pm). Another full face-to-face meeting was probably necessary before the end of the year.

Mike Garrett.