

# 39th Directing Board Meeting – Summary Notes

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*Location:* Longyearbyen, Norway  
*Date:* 9 June 2018  
*Note taker:* Dirk Behrend  
*Version history:* 9 June 2018

Attending Board members: Axel Nothnagel (Chair), Dirk Behrend, Patrick Charlot, Francisco (“Paco”) Colomer, Rüdiger Haas, David Hall, Arthur Niell, Evgeny Nosov, Gino Tuccari, Takahiro Wakasugi.

Excused: Ed Himwich, John Gipson, Thomas Hobiger, Torben Schüler, Oleg Titov, Guangli Wang.

Guests: John Conway.

## 1. Welcome (Axel Nothnagel)

Axel Nothnagel welcomed the attending Board members and John Conway as guest.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

The Board approved the agenda for the 39th DB meeting.

## 3. Approval of Minutes of the 38th DB Meeting (Axel Nothnagel)

The Board approved the notes of the 38th DB meeting.

## 4. Replacement of Technology Development Center representative (Axel Nothnagel)

Thomas Hobiger will relinquish his position at TDC representative. The position will be refilled at the next IVS Directing Board elections.

Gino reported that Jamie McCallum was too busy to continue as VTC Chair. Jamie did agree to continue for a couple of months, then a replacement would be needed. Gino agreed to be the acting VTC Chair until a successor to Jamie can be found. The Board approved the suggestion.

## 5. Action Item List

All action items have been worked on.

## 6. Comments and Questions on written reports

The activities of the various components were described in written reports provided to the Board members prior to the Board meeting. The following only reports on additional comments, if any.

**6.1 IVS DB Chair's report:** none.

**6.2 IVS CC Director's report:** This Biennial Report (BR) is printed on request basis. For the next BR, the print demand could be requested up front: if a high enough number of printed copies is requested, a corresponding print run could be done. Otherwise an electronic-only version should be considered. For the IVS Newsletter the paper version shall be discontinued; there will only be an electronic version in PDF format.

**6.3 Observing Program Committee (OPC) Chair:** none.

**6.4 ICSU World Data System (WDS):** none.

**6.5 Technology Coordinator:** Gino maintained that there was a synergy between the EVN and the IVS about information pages for station equipment.

**6.6 VGOS Technical Committee (VTC):** for chairmanship, see TOP 4.

**6.7 VGOS Project Executive Group (VPEG):** none.

**6.8 Observatory monitoring and control:** Gino reported that no one picked this item up after Jim Lovell's departure. Arthur mentioned that NASA had a strong push to have unattended observing. There would be a need for coordination. The Directing Board urged Ed and Alexander Neidhardt to communicate on this, to explore future ways, and to solicit input from other groups.

**6.9 Network Coordinator:** There were thirteen VGOS stations contacted for ITU registration. However, this should not be done for VGOS stations only, but also for legacy stations.

**6.10 Analysis Coordinator:** none.

**6.11 Committee on Training and Education:** Axel offered, if needed, the help of the Board for organizing the VLBI School.

**6.12 Distributed correlation:** Gino showed two slides prepared by Laura La Porta showing a test done with R1840. Bonn was the reference correlator; the branch correlators got a slice of data of 1-hour length.

**6.13 WG7 on satellite observations with VLBI:** The Board suggested to make Lucia McCallum the vice-chair and to reduce the size of the working group. A second workshop will be organized.

**6.14 Task Force on seamless auxiliary data:** This TF is chaired by Alexander Neidhardt. Now he has a working system and pilot operations can be started.

**6.15 WG8 on Galactic Aberration:** An inconsistency between the WG8 value and the value used by the ICRF3 WG would be unwanted. The decision was postponed until the ICRF3 WG has taken a decision on their Galactic Aberration value.

**6.16 European VLBI Group for Geodesy and Astrometry (EVGA):** Axel mentioned that, if there was a reasonable target topic, the Board meeting at the EVGA could be converted into a Retreat by adding one or two extra days.

**6.17 Asia-Oceania VLBI Group for Geodesy and Astrometry (AOV):** none.

**6.18 IERS:** none.

**6.19 IAU Division A:** none.

**6.20 ICRF3:** none.

**6.21 EVN:** John Conway noted that different astronomy organizations might have to coordinate their efforts on a global basis forming something like an Alliance (of EVN, LBA, and so on).

## **7. Discussions of**

### **7.1 Call for outreach and communications branch**

The Board suggested minor changes to the call text.

### **7.2 VGOS progress and open issues**

Axel encouraged everybody to look into the VGOS processing chain and possibly develop their own procedures and/or validate existing procedures. Axel mentioned that for Ishioka a political decision from the IVS was needed with respect to VGOS broadband observing. The Board would need to decide on running VGOS observations as well as mixed-mode observations with the R1, R4, or similar sessions, for which Ishioka would need to establish S-band capability with their VGOS system.

### **7.3 Role of VPEG vs. VTC**

The Board agreed that the VPEG could be put on hold until further notice. The VPEG members should be invited to participate in the VTC meetings.

### **7.4 IVS Data and Results policy**

The Board agreed that there was no need for action, as the availability of IVS data/products was covered by the IVS ToR as well as through the membership in the WDS. For issues beyond, the individual institutions (e.g., NASA GSFC) would need to handle this.

### **7.5 Operating twin telescopes or pairs of telescopes in global networks**

Axel said that for Wettzell and Ny-Ålesund the second antenna of the twins is for guaranteeing continuous observing. For Onsala, however, both twin telescopes will operate at the same time, i.e., not only to cover gaps in the operation of the first. The IVS will have to come up with a plan on how to incorporate twin telescopes into IVS operations. The Board supported the approach of

having the Intensive sessions improved by taking advantage of twin telescopes. Intensives observed in parallel could improve the error budget, stabilizing the Intensives in general.

## **7.6 Missing actions in IVS**

Skipped.

## **7.7 Start time at 0 h UT**

The Board tasked Paco and Torben to poll the stations on the impact of changing the start time.

## **7.8 UT1-Intensive Combination Center**

Axel indicated that BKG might be willing to take over the responsibility of a UT1-Intensive Combination Center.

## **7.9 Distributed correlation**

Covered in TOP 6.12.

## **7.10 IVS Representative on CRAF**

Axel reported that Hayo Hase was the current representative and would likely not be able to continue.

## **7.11 Availability of Visibility and FITS Files**

Axel reported that there were a few requests for access to visibility and FITS files. Their availability implies that someone has to store them, which is currently the individual correlators. The IVS maintains an Open Sky Policy; but this holds only for formats and data that are actually supported and not for additional products that users may request. For that, the extra work involved in producing FITS files is at the discretion of the correlator staff.

## **7.12 Southern Hemisphere Astrometry Group**

The Board agreed that establishing an IVS Operations Center for the South would be the best way of organizing this group under the auspices of the IVS.

### **7.13 Endorsement of ICRF3**

The Board agreed to make an endorsement of the ICRF3.

### **8. Committee for 2019 elections**

The Board selected Gino, Paco, and Arthur as members of the Elections Committee. Axel named Gino to be the Chair.

### **9. Recent and upcoming Meetings**

Gino and Evgeny mentioned that they planned on going to the IVTW in Thailand.

### **10. Summary of Action Items**

There were some action items resulting from this Board meeting (separate document).

### **11. Miscellaneous (all)**

Axel said that the IVS should have a wish list for 2030 with the UN GGRF Working Group. He volunteered to prepare a draft and iterate this with the Board.