

51st Directing Board Meeting – Summary Minutes

Location: MIT Haystack Observatory
Date: 24 October 2024
Note taker: Dirk Behrend
Version history: 29 March 2025

Attending Board members: Rüdiger Haas (Chair), Dirk Behrend, Patrick Charlot, Pablo de Vicente (remote), Alet de Witt (remote), John Gipson, Phillip Haftings, Hayo Hase, Masafumi Ishigaki, Nancy Kotary, Lucia McCallum, Alexander Neidhardt, Fengchun Shu, Benedikt Soja, Oleg Titov, Chet Ruszczyk.

Excused: Gino Tuccari, Minghui Xu.

1. Welcome and approval of agenda (Rüdiger Haas)

Rüdiger Haas welcomed the Board members. The Board approved the agenda for the 51st DB meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 50th IVS DB meeting (Rüdiger Haas)

The Board approved the minutes of the 50th DB meeting.

3. Comments, questions, discussions on short written reports

The Board confirmed Mikhail Kharinov (IAA RAS) as the successor to the late Elena Skurikhina on the Observing Program Committee (OPC).

Alexander Neidhardt reported on the onboarding procedure for new stations. There is a need to train the various correlator groups in evaluating new stations. Haystack's role should become mostly consultative.

Benedikt Soja will prepare a Call for Participation in IVS troposphere products. The preferred abbreviation for Analysis Coordinator is "ACo." Sabine Bachmann continues to maintain the BSCW server after the departure of Anastasiia Walenta from BKG.

John Gipson mentioned that there is a need for antenna deformation models for more stations. Some models need verification; for example, Onsala has two competing models that differ by a factor of two. The current Galactic Aberration model needs to be updated using new data from recent years. It would be beneficial to cooperate with major astronomy efforts such as the SKA.

Hayo Hase emphasized that there is a need to agree on the future VGOS frequency sequence. He suggested that stations contact their national spectrum authorities.

4. IVS elections (Dirk Behrend)

The IVS Election Committee, consisting of Pablo de Vicente (Chair), Nancy Kotary, and Dirk Behrend, was working on the 2024 elections. A call for nominations was distributed to the community. Two Representative positions [Pablo de Vicente (Network Station) and Oleg Titov (Analysis and Data Center)] and the three at-large positions [Hayo Hase, Masafumi Ishigaki, Fengchun Shu] were up for election. Hayo Hase was not eligible for re-election.

5. Upcoming changes to the IVS Directing Board (Rüdiger Haas)

Gino Tuccari plans to retire at the end of January 2026. He will then also step down as IVS Technology Coordinator.

Hayo Hase reiterated that there is the need to find a successor for the IVS Representative on CRAF. The person needs to be from a European institution. Hayo agreed to continue to be the IVS Representative for the time being. He will be invited to attend IVS Directing Board meetings after the end of his term on the Board.

6. How to make the IVS more professional? (Rüdiger Haas)

The Board did a “Five Hats” brainstorming session in the form of group work, where the five hats represented objectivity, intuition, critical judgement, positive thinking, and creativity. The main idea was to analyze the current situation and to discuss future possibilities for the IVS. Rüdiger intends to evaluate the written statements provided by the groups.

7. IVS success analysis and performance feedback (Alexander Neidhardt, Lucia McCallum)

Several groups were working on this. That is, it was still work in progress.

8. Session-PI group (Lucia McCallum)

Lucia McCallum organized several online meetings of the “session gurus.” The participation was global but small in numbers.

9. UN-GGCE information (Rüdiger Haas)

Rüdiger Haas mentioned the UN-GGCE (United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence) partnership program. There was a 1st Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy. A European Capacity Development Plan Workshop was planned in Bonn, Germany, from 17–21 February 2025.

10. ESA GSET WG-3 (VLBI) (Rüdiger Haas)

Rüdiger Haas is the chair of WG-3 (VLBI) of ESA's GENESIS Science Exploitation Team (GSET). The tasks of WG-3 include supporting the design of the GENESIS VLBI transmitter, ensuring compatibility with IVS operations and product generation, and scientifically exploiting the GENESIS VLBI data. The main goal is to include GENESIS in IVS operations to strengthen the TRF without harming other IVS products. The work of the WG-3 is divided into seven work packages (frequencies, ground station fidelity, delay resolution and correlation, scheduling, end-to-end simulations, test observations, and PRN-option).

11. New/revived IVS WG on Satellite Observations (Lucia McCallum)

The Board approved to revive IVS Working Group 7 on Satellite Observations with VLBI. Lucia McCallum agreed to be the Chair of WG7 and to prepare an updated charter (including membership).

12. New IVS WG on VLBI scale

The Board agreed to establish IVS Working Group 9 on VLBI Scale (WG9). The Chair of this WG will be Karine Le Bail. The WG should have a four-year lifetime.

13. Regional IVS groups: EVGA, AOV

The next EVGA meeting will be held in Matera, Italy, from 6–10 April 2025. In conjunction with the EVGA, there will be a Directing Board meeting on 11 April 2025 at Matera station.

14. Next IVS Training school on VLBI for Geodesy and Astrometry? (Rüdiger Haas)

Nataliya Zubko suggested either holding an Online School in 2025 or postponing the school until 2026 (when it could be held in conjunction with the General Meeting). The Board preferred to have the school in 2025 and, if possible, in person. Rüdiger Haas mentioned that the next

International VLBI Technology Workshop (IVTW) in Gothenburg, Sweden, in October 2025 might lend itself to have a school added on.

15. IVS technical paper in *Sensors*? (Chet Ruszczyk)

Chet Ruszczyk planned to present an outline at the next Board meeting.

16. Where to have IVS GM 2026? (Dirk Behrend, Rüdiger Haas)

Dirk Behrend and Rüdiger Haas were in contact with Chuck Naudet from JPL/Caltech to possibly have the GM in Pasadena, CA, USA. Further discussion was planned in the upcoming weeks.

17. Miscellaneous

None.