

# 54th Directing Board Meeting – Summary Minutes

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*Location:* Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany  
*Date:* 17 April 2026  
*Note taker:* Dirk Behrend  
*Version history:* 29 April 2026

Attending Board members: Rüdiger Haas (Chair), Dirk Behrend, Patrick Charlot, Alet de Witt, Susana García Espada, Phillip Haftings, Masafumi Ishigaki, Hana Krásná, Lucia McCallum (online), Alexander Neidhardt, Chet Ruszczyk, Matthias Schartner, Fengchun Shu, Benedikt Soja, Minghui Xu.

Excused: Nancy Kotary.

Guests: Hayo Hase, Richard Gross (first hour).

## **1. Welcome and approval of agenda (Rüdiger Haas)**

Rüdiger Haas welcomed the attending Board members and two guests. The Board approved the agenda for the 54th DB meeting.

## **2. Improving the Resilience of IAG's Scientific Services (Richard Gross)**

A common weakness across all IAG services is the lack of a backup for the combination centers. To increase resilience, the IVS should strive to have a second operational combination center.

## **3. Approval of the minutes of the 53rd IVS DB meeting (Rüdiger Haas)**

The Board approved the minutes of the 53rd DB meeting.

## **4. Comments, questions, discussions on short written reports**

Lucia McCallum reported that the Pilot Project on Station Feedback only digests publicly available information. The Board confirmed using the opt-in approach for stations to join the project.

For IVS Working Group 7, the Board suggested that Lucia McCallum contact Stephen Merkowitz (GRITSS mission) to interact with WG7. For IVS Working Group 9, the Board agreed with Karine Le Bail's suggestion to close WG9; the Board requests that a final report be written.

## 5. Evaluation of IVS DB #53 exercise (Rüdiger Haas)

Rüdiger Haas summarized in five points the results of the exercise from the last Board meeting:

- Continue cooperation and collaboration in IVS;
- Expand lobbying for the IVS and its activities;
- Educate and train a new IVS generation;
- Focus on new technology and new science goals for IVS; and
- Create a pool of IVS spare parts.

## 6. VGOS flux catalog (Minghui Xu)

Minghui Xu reported that his group was working on determining a full flux catalog for all VGOS sources. The catalog would need to be updated over time. Alexander Neidhardt will request the IVS stations to perform antenna calibrations (e.g., Tsys, gain curves).

## 7. Decision on a new IVS TC (Rüdiger Haas, Dirk Behrend)

The Board unanimously approved the proposal from José Antonio (“Pepe”) López Pérez to be the next IVS Technology Coordinator.

## 8. Discussion on potential other changes in IVS (Rüdiger Haas)

### a) Retired private researchers

The Board agreed that private researchers can apply for IVS membership for their company. Once the company is an IVS member, the researcher becomes an IVS Associate Member.

### b) IVS frequency manager

The Board members concurred that a better name for this function was Spectrum Manager. The Board decided to first try the route via the UN-GGCE. If support from that side was not possible, the Board would have to re-discuss.

### c) IVS correlation coordinator

The Board approved the creation of the permanent position of Correlation Coordinator. To maintain a reasonable balance between permanent and elected members on the Board, also the elected position of Operation Center Representative would be created at the same time. Both actions require a change to the IVS Terms of Reference.

The Board approved the change of status of the University of Alicante VLBI Analysis Center (UAVAC) from Associate AC to Full Operational AC.

## **9. Status of ongoing VGOS projects (Dirk Behrend)**

There was recent progress of VGOS projects in Asia and Africa. VGOS antennas were built in Thailand, Indonesia, and Nigeria. A possible project in Malaysia fell through.

## **10. Revision of IVS membership application forms (Dirk Behrend)**

The Coordinating Center prepared a first draft of the IVS membership forms as fillable PDF forms. Dirk Behrend will distribute this draft to the Board members for feedback.

## **11. Discussion on registration and onboarding workflow (Alexander Neidhardt)**

Alexander Neidhardt gave an overview of the state of the registration and onboarding workflow. The Board reaffirmed that this work should be continued.

## **12. IVS resolutions (Rüdiger Haas)**

Rüdiger Haas prepared three drafts of IVS resolutions for the Board to consider: (1) K-band, (2) Az/El-dependent gravitational deformation, and (3) IVS support of Genesis and NovaMoon. The Board asked for more time to review the resolutions. Rüdiger will send out the draft resolutions for comments.

## **13. UN-GGCE information (Masafumi Ishigaki)**

Masafumi Ishigaki reported that he was working on the geodetic supply chain. He was running simulations on the impact of having vs. not having VLBI data.

## **14. News on EVGA and AOV (Susana García Espada, Fengchun Shu, Lucia McCallum)**

The next EVGA meeting is planned to be held in Espoo, Finland, 6–11 June 2027. The LOC had been formed, and the timeline for publishing the announcements was determined with the First Announcement planned for 1 September 2026.

The AOV had a meeting in November 2025. For 2026, six AOV sessions were planned. The group also looked into organizing AOV VGOS sessions; for this some testing was planned.

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

The work on the paper had stalled due to extensive travel (Antarctica) by Chet Ruszczyk. The efforts will be resumed.

## **16. Planning IVS GM 2028 (Lucia McCallum)**

The 15th IVS General Meeting will be held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia from 20–24 February 2028. It is planned to organize a VLBI Training School in conjunction with the GM, likely prior to the GM.

## **17. IVS presence at meetings and conferences (all)**

Upcoming meetings included the [EVN Symposium 2026](#) from 14–18 September 2026 in Manchester, UK as well as the [TIGER 2026](#) (28 September – 1 October 2026) and [GGOS Days 2026](#) (5–7 October 2026) meetings in Gävle, Sweden. The abstract submission deadline for TIGER was extended to 12 May 2026.

## **18. Miscellaneous**

The Board suggested forming a task force for VCC to be led by Susana García-Espada. Initial members are anticipated to be Gönenç Moğol, Mario Bérubé, and Alexander Neidhardt.