

44th Directing Board Ersatz Meeting I – Minutes

Location: 2-hour Zoom meeting
Date: 25 March 2021
Note taker: Dirk Behrend
Version history: 19 April 2021

Attending Board members: Rüdiger Haas (Chair), James Anderson, Dirk Behrend, Johannes Böhm, Patrick Charlot, Francisco (“Paco”) Colomer, Alet de Witt, John Gipson, David Hall, Hayo Hase, Nancy Kotary, Axel Nothnagel, Evgeny Nosov, Chet Ruszczyk, Nadia Shuygina, Yu Takagi, Oleg Titov, Gino Tuccari, Pablo de Vicente, Stuart Weston.

Absent: Jinling Li.

1. Welcome

Axel Nothnagel welcomed the attending Board members, in particular the new members Pablo de Vicente, Nadia Shuygina, Yu Takagi, and Oleg Titov.

2. Approval of agenda

The Board approved the agenda for the ersatz meeting.

3. Proposals for IVS Resolutions

The Board unanimously approved IVS Resolution 2021-01 “Continuous Recording and Submission of Meteorological and Clock Offset Data” which recommends continuous recording of met and clock offset data and making these data sets available via the Seamless Auxiliary Data Archive hosted at Wettzell. The Board unanimously approved IVS Resolution 2021-02 “Monitoring of Critical Telescope Parameters” which recommends that stations monitor critical telescope parameters (e.g., phase cal, cable cal, system temperature); for an interim time period, Yebes will likely function as a central repository. Both resolutions will have an annex with technical details.

4. IVS Web presence and press activities

The Outreach Office plans to extend the social media presence and to collaborate with Paco on media relations. It is foreseen to collect IVS-related publications on the Outreach website (vlbi.org) using an ingest process that makes use of the BibTeX format. Collecting references will depend on users to submit their publication entries.

5. Single-thread, multi-thread, multi-file data transfer and correlation

The single-thread approach was initially taken to minimize the impact on the correlators. Multi-file transfer is in the works and will be rolled out in due time. The technical details are likely not a Board question.

6. OPC membership

The Board agrees that Rüdiger replaces Axel on the Observing Program Committee (OPC). Axel was on the OPC first as Analysis Coordinator, then as Chair and Analysis Center representative. The NICT space-geodesy group at Kashima was disbanded at the end of March 2021. With several IVS components being discontinued (e.g., Kashima telescopes, technology development, correlator), Sekido-san relinquished his position on the OPC.

7. “Chair’s handover of the reins”

Rüdiger officially relieved Axel as the Chair of the IVS at the end of the first part of the Board meeting. The second part was then chaired by Rüdiger.

8. Network and Data DOIs

The Board felt that assigning DOIs to IVS data sets is important; other techniques already have DOIs, for instance, at CDDIS (e.g., GNSS). Takagi-san agreed on leading an effort to establish DOIs for IVS data. He will get help from Glenda Coetzer (HartRAO) who has expressed interest in assisting with this.

9. New chair of the IVS Committee on Training and Education

The Board unanimously approved that Nataliya Zubko from the Finnish Geospatial Research Institute be the new chair of the Committee on Training and Education.

10. Network and scheduling issue: SEFD and source flux catalog

There was a splinter meeting organized in conjunction with the EVGA meeting. The current flux models lack VGOS frequencies. Some 25 years ago there was a dedicated person spending 0.5 FTE on monitoring sources; this needs to be an automated process. The Board agreed that a loose group will work on this. Depending on progress, this could be formalized or continued in an informal way.

11. VGOS R&D sessions for investigations of frequency allocations

Bill Petrachenko determined updated frequency sequences, some of which result in improved delay resolution functions. The new frequency setups should be tested in VGOS R&D sessions. There are up to six VGOS R&D slots available in the second half of 2021. Some tests could also be done within EU-VGOS.

12. Miscellaneous

The organizers of the Unified Analysis Workshop requested the nomination of five IVS representatives for the meeting. The Board felt that this can be postponed until the next DB meeting in about three months.

Axel and Rüdiger will prepare and send a letter of appreciation to NICT for the agency's strong support of the IVS in the past and their continued support with their station at Koganei.

The 26-m antenna at HartRAO is nearing the end of its lifetime. Efforts to promote VGOS even more could be helpful.

13. Planning of further meetings

13.1 Next DB meeting by telecon

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom on 8 July 2021 @ 11–13 UT.