

# 53rd Directing Board Meeting – Summary Minutes

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*Location:* Onsala Space Observatory, Sweden  
*Date:* 25 October 2025  
*Note taker:* Dirk Behrend  
*Version history:* 5 April 2026

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

Excused: Nancy Kotary.

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

Rüdiger Haas welcomed the Board members. The Board approved the agenda for the 53rd DB meeting.

## 2. Approval of the minutes of the 52nd IVS DB meeting (Rüdiger Haas)

The Board approved the minutes of the 52nd DB meeting.

## 3. Comments, questions, discussions on short written reports

Gino Tuccari attended his last Board meeting as IVS Technology Coordinator before his retirement in January 2026. The Board decided to issue an open call to find a successor to Gino; the call was planned to be issued in December 2025.

Alexander Neidhardt mentioned that before performing a frequency sequence fringe test (e.g., for GENESIS), he could evaluate the stations' `.prc` and `.snr` files in a pre-check step to identify possible setup errors.

Benedikt Soja sent a list of topics from the VLBI perspective to be addressed at the GGOS/IERS Unified Analysis Workshop 2026 (UAW2026). He planned on contacting potential IVS analysis representatives to attend the UAW2026 in Munich, Germany, from 5–6 March 2026 (participation is by invitation only).

Lucia McCallum and Susana García Espada reported on the progress of a pilot project to provide station feedback and benchmarking using publicly available data and reports. A presentation

about the project is planned for the upcoming IVS General Meeting. It is foreseen that stations can voluntarily opt in to be part of the project.

#### **4. IVS-DB exercise: “How to fail – how to succeed?” (Rüdiger Haas)**

The Board conducted a reverse brainstorming exercise in seven subgroups. IVS-related issues were initially made worse mentally, then the negative ideas were flipped into a positive solution. Rüdiger Haas will present an evaluation of the results from the seven groups at the next Board meeting.

#### **5. VGOS plan 2026 (Dirk Behrend, Lucia McCallum)**

The plan for 2026 foresees some 56 VGOS 24-hour sessions to be observed on Wednesdays (52 sessions) and Thursdays (4 sessions). In total, the VGOS plan comprises the following sessions: VGOS-OPS (38), VGOS-R3 (6), VGOS-CRF (4), and VGOS-RD (8). The new VGOS-R3 series mimics the legacy S/X IVS-R1 and IVS-R4 series and consists of VGOS stations that have a proven record of fast data transport to the BONN correlator.

#### **6. IVS Intensives plan (Dirk Behrend)**

There was no recent progress in the discussions of the OPC subgroup.

#### **7. Discussion on GGOS core sites definition (Rüdiger Haas)**

The Board agreed that the VLBI component of a GGOS core site could be any VLBI system (S/X, VGOS, or K). The Board decided to form a small group to formulate the IVS position; the group members include Lucia McCallum, Rüdiger Haas, Dirk Behrend, and Susana García Espada.

#### **8. How to progress on vex2? (Rüdiger Haas, Dirk Behrend)**

The Board felt that there was a need to implement the VEX2 standard in support of the GENESIS mission. A task force was formed to compile an inventory of station and correlator needs and to look into possible implementation routes for VEX2. The suggested members of the task force include Matthias Schartner, Alexander Neidhardt, Phillip Haftings, Jamie McCallum, and Chet Ruszczyk.

## **9. Task Force on Catalog Support for VGOS Scheduling (Rüdiger Haas, Matthias Schartner)**

The current *sked* catalogs include flux values only for two bands (S and X) but not for the four VGOS bands. Minghui Xu stated that one of his Master students was doing work in that field; he could give a brief report on the work at the next Board meeting.

## **10. UN-GGCE information (Rüdiger Haas, Masafumi Ishigaki)**

Masafumi Ishigaki was dedicating one day per week to the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) activities, working with Nick Brown on the global geodetic supply chain.

## **11. News on Regional IVS groups: EVGA, AOV (Susana García Espada, Lucia McCallum)**

In November 2024, the AOV elected Lucia McCallum to AOV Chair and Masafumi Ishigaki to AOV Secretary. The AOV website was moved to GSI.

The next EVGA meeting will be held in the first half of June 2027 in Helsinki, Finland.

## **12. IVS technical paper in *Sensors*? (Chet Ruzsczyk)**

Chet Ruzsczyk prepared an outline for an IVS technical paper for publication in the journal *Sensors*. The writing of the paper will be a collaborative effort using Overleaf LaTeX.

## **13. Planning IVS GM 2026 (Alexander Neidhardt, Dirk Behrend)**

Dirk Behrend reported that the First Announcement for the meeting in Garmisch-Partenkirchen was distributed on August 31, 2025. The Program Committee (PC) was established, and it defined the motto of the meeting as well as the six scientific sessions. Alexander Neidhardt introduced the meeting website (Indico) hosted at the University of Würzburg.

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

Benedikt Soja was going to AGU25 in New Orleans, LA, USA. He was okay with presenting an IVS poster. A poster could also be presented at REFAG2026 and EGU2026 (possible presenters: Hana Krásná, Benedikt Soja, Rüdiger Haas). Alet de Witt mentioned an astronomy and geodesy session (to be submitted by December 1, 2025, deadline) at the IAU 2027 General Assembly

(Rome, August 2027). Lucia McCallum pointed out a geodesy session at AOGS in Fukuoka, Japan in August 2026 convened by Fengchun Shu; VLBI contributions were welcome.

## **15. Miscellaneous**

None.