



ASTRONET Board Meeting
September 20, 2006
Salle du conseil, IAP, 98 bis Bd Arago, Paris 14^{ème}

Present :

ANDERSEN Johannes (NOTSA) – Chair
BARCONS Xavier (MEC)
BÖHLKE Kristina (PT-DESY/ BMBF)
CASOLI Fabienne (CNRS/INSU)
FLETCHER Peter (PPARC)
KESSLER Martin (ESA)
KOHLENER Elisabeth (CNRS)
MONNET Guy (ESO)
NORDSTRÖM Birgitta (NOTSA/University of Copenhagen)
ROMEO Olivier (CNRS/ INSU)
STARK Ronald (NWO)
VETTOLANI Paolo (INAF)
ZENSUS Anton (MPG/MPIfR Bonn)
ZICKGRAF Franz-Josef (PT-DESY/ BMBF)

Apologies:

LAGRANGE Anne-Marie (CNRS/INSU)
VOGES Wolfgang (MPG)

Minutes

Review of the 'dry run' of the financial report

For the first year there is a general underspending of 48.6% of the planned budget. If 70% of the first pre-financing is not spent for the 18 first months, the EC will suspend the second pre-financing.

Some concerns appeared about the calculation of permanent personnel costs. The general rule in Astronet is that scientists that participate in the Science Vision are not reimbursed for this work.

For contractors under the AC cost model, permanent personnel costs are not eligible and consequently they don't have to fill in time sheets like contractors under the FC or FCF cost model.

The Board disagreed with the suggestion by the PMO to request clause 39 in the contract (avoids providing an audit certificate if the grant is less than 150 000 euros) because of the undesirable side effects.

Budget for the Symposium

There are some difficulties in finding a convenient place. It was impossible to find accommodations in Munich; Paris has been considered as an alternative, but it seems difficult to find a venue that fits within the budget. The EC Project Officer noted that expenses in excess of the budget are allowed, but only if duly justified.

All Board members agreed to investigate possible venues, with prices, in their home countries before October 1 and submit the information to the PMO. The Project Manager and WP leader (ESO) are authorised to select the best offer and finalise the contract after this date ¹.

Delivery date and approval of Deliverables 6-8

- *D5 (Census of European Strategies and Resources, WP1.1)*

It was noted that, while the URL had been communicated to the EC, no formal approval by the Board had been requested. The Chair will check the content of the web site and propose a course of action before October 1.

- *D6 (Management of European astronomy, WP1.1)*

The draft report will be sent to the Board members by e-mail by the end of November for approval.

- *D7 (New Partners and Associates, WP1.2)*

A preliminary report will be ready by December 15; a complete one by March 1, 2007.

The Board approved the requests of the Swedish Research Council and the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences to join ASTRONET as Associates. Following the proposal by the BMBF, the Chair will issue an invitation to the DFG to also become an Associate (draft of letter to be circulated by October 1). No new contractor will be accepted after December 2006.

A revised draft of the Associate Agreement, incorporating the comments made at the meeting, will be circulated by October 1. After that date, it will be presented to any new Associates, beginning with Sweden, Lithuania, and the DFG. As Coordinator, CNRS-INSU will sign all final Associate Agreements on behalf of ASTRONET.

- *D8 (contacts with other EC-funded initiatives and partners), WP1.3*

A revised version of D8 “first report on networking activities and discussions with EC-funded initiatives” will be submitted by October 15.

¹ For information the *Palais des Congrès* in Poitiers (France) has been chosen to host the Symposium.

Schedule and approval procedure for the Science Vision

A draft report (D9) will be sent by e-mail to the Board members for approval by December 1st. Then it will be put on the web site of Astronet for discussion with the astronomy community.

Preparations and schedule for the Infrastructure Roadmap

The panels will be approved by e-mail in two steps:

- November 2006: approval of the panel structure and chairs
- January 2007: approval of the panel members

The first meeting will be held in January-February 2007.

Planning and schedule for WP1.4 (long-term evolution of ASTRONET) and WP4.1 (Joint Call for Research Proposals)

WP1.4 : The aim is to propose a permanent mechanism for Europe-wide, cross-disciplinary consultation and coordination to carry the work of ASTRONET forward after the 4 years. This task will start when the integration of new full participants is complete.

All Board members are invited to send relevant ideas by 1 December 2006.

WP4.1 : The pre-draft for an ASTRONET joint call distributed by F.-J. Zickgraf at the meeting was discussed and modified.

At the proposal of the BMBF, the Board unanimously approved the following Resolution:

“The Board agrees on the necessity to decide on the general requirements for a joint call and asks each partner to issue statements on the following topics by 1 April 2007:

- a. Statement of funding agencies on their interest to participate in a call;*
- b. Statement on the suggested thematic scope of the call with the working title “R&D related to Large Infrastructures”;*
- c. Statement on national financial framework for the joint call from each participant. “*

Election of Board Chairperson

Johannes Andersen was re-elected unanimously for a one-year term.

Next meeting

Will be held on April 13th 2007.

Action list

PURPOSE	WHO	DESCRIPTION	DEADLINE
Place of the Symposium	All	Sending proposals for venues to host the Symposium.	September 30
Proposal to invite DFG	J Andersen	Sending Board members a draft letter to invite DFG as Associate	September 30
D5 approval	J Andersen	Sending the link to the census.	September 30
Associates	J Andersen	Sending the revised draft associate agreement to Board members.	September 30
Financial documents	PMO	Sending contractors comments on the dry run documents.	October
D6 approval	A Fontana	Sending the report on Management of European astronomy.	End of November
D7	J Andersen	Report on the integration of new full participants and progress in inviting Associates.	December 15
D8	P Fletcher + F. Casoli	Completing the first report on networking activities and discussions with EC-funded initiatives.	October 15
D9	T de Zeeuw + SVWG	Completing the Draft Science Vision report for European astronomy.	December 1
Infrastructure roadmap panels	Board members	Approval by e-mail. 1) structure + chairs 2) panel members	November 2006 January 2007
WP1.4	Board members	Sending suggestions for the future of Astronet to F Casoli and J Andersen.	December 1
WP1.4	Task leader	Survey possible forms for a successor of ASTRONET	Next Board meeting
Infrastructure roadmap	Michael Bode	First panel meetings	January/February 2007
Financial report	All	Sending all documents (activity, financial report, form C, audit certificate).	March 15