

Astronet Board Meeting – February 2nd 2023 by zoom

Welcome and Introductions

All members introduced themselves and the Chair welcomed new members and observers. Claudio Melo (Portugal) announced that this will be his last meeting as representative. The Board noted apologies from ESA. ESO, Germany and Sweden not present.

Agenda – the Board agreed the Agenda as circulated.

Science Vision & Roadmap

The Chair, as project lead for the Science Vision, presented the current status.

The Executive Summary is a very few days away from being ready to be circulated to the Board for approval prior to printing and publication. Members were thanked for providing their logos, which would feature on the back cover. The Chair showed the current version on screen. **Action: Chair - Circulate Exec Summary for endorsement.**

The main document of the Science Vision and Roadmap is also nearly ready; awaiting a few quality images and minor consistency edits to the Societal chapter. It was expected this could also be circulated, prior to printing, during February. **Action: Chair - Circulate Science Vision and Roadmap for endorsement.**

Both documents will be available as hard copies and digitally. CNRS was working on the improved ASTRONET web site – to be ready to receive the publications and will make available to members soon. The Chair offered to draft a short accompanying statement to be published on the site, with the reports. The Board suggested a set of accompanying slides be produced to assist their national efforts to advertise the report. The Chair would talk with the Editors to see how this might be accomplished. This might also include a press release that could be used by members for their own media efforts. **Action: Chair – draft cover note for Report on web, arrange accompanying slide deck and consider press release.**

The Chair will be in touch with delegations to ascertain how many hard copies they need and to whom these should be sent. The Board emphasised the need for hard copies of the Exec Summary. **Action: Office – ask members for numbers of copies and addresses to send to.**

With regard to how to maximise the impact of the report, the Board discussed the target audience and reflected on how the previous reports had been used. Members reported that previous reports had been influential in securing national buy-in for large projects (SKA, ELT) but were not meant to replace national priorities, rather act as evidence that projects or capabilities are part of a wider European priority for Astrophysics (similar but far more broad than the ESFRI Roadmaps). Given the influence of the EC in determining support for major Research Infrastructures it remained important that the value of the ASTRONET report was highlighted to the Commission. It was also hoped that ASTRONET would complement reports from ESA and other international bodies.

Plans Moving forward

The Chair emphasised the need for ASTRONET to generate an action plan in response to the report and to consider ASTRONET's work plan for the coming years, once the Science Vision realisation was

complete. These items would form the basis of the next Board meeting. **Action: Office – include future plans and SV response / action plan in next Board meeting Agenda**

With regard to a launch event, the Board was still supportive of this and agreed it had value. Andreas, for APPEC, reported that its Strategy launch had been particularly useful in getting press coverage and senior EC official's attention. They plan to launch their mid-term strategy review outcomes and it was possible that ASTRONET might combine efforts with that. Sara (EAS) reported that there is an upcoming EAS meeting with the Commission to talk about exoplanets, where it might be possible to pass copies of the report to senior EC staff – the Chair would liaise with her to see if copies could be available and acceptable. (Chair's note – we are also looking to include a short session within the EAS meeting in Warsaw later in the year). The Board noted that ESA has and events for its Voyage 2050 and TerraNovea reports. Jean-Paul said that he would explore if there were other meeting opportunities coming up with the EC or the wider European community that ASTRONET might consider adding a launch event to, on the basis that policy formers/ government officials were more likely to attend an existing even than one solely focussed on Astrophysics. **Actions: Jean-Paul to see if there were any meetings coming up that ASTRONET could be included within for advertising the SV; Chair to work with Sara over inclusion of Exec Summary in upcoming EAS/EC meeting**

Andreas also reported that the Astroparticle and Astrophysics communities were considering a response (ACME) to a Commission call for a joint programme around multi-messenger science – as were Europlanet and the underground labs community – this was an example of where ASTRONET might provide a useful input and where the context of the Science Vision and Roadmap might strengthen the case made.

New Astronet Chair

The Chair reminded the Board that his term had ended (after 4 years in the role) and a new chair will be required. He will produce a job description, although the role will be shaped by the action plan for ASTRONET. The chair is elected by the membership following a call for nominations. The role will be expected to come with a level of administrative/secretarial support. The new chair does not have to be a Board member and it is not impossible that ASTRONET could provide a modest honorarium for the right candidate. This is an essential issue to discuss at the next meeting. **Action: Office – to include selection of new Board chair on agenda for next meeting; Chair to draft terms of engagement for Chair position**

AOB

Saskia (NWO) reported that invoices for the 2023 subscription will be sent out to those ASTRONET members who pay soon. The prime uses of this subscription are travel, meeting and publication costs.

The Board agreed that its next meeting will be a hybrid meeting in the Spring. Please contact Colin if you are willing to host the meeting. **Action: Office – trawl for date for next Board meeting and suitable, easy to reach venue.**