

Minutes of the Astronet Board meeting

held on october 24th 2024
at IRAP (Toulouse – France)

Present in Toulouse : Begona Garcia (IAC- Spain), Martin Giard (CNRS- France), Saskia Matheussen (NWO – The Netherlands), Salvatore Sciortino (INAF- Italy)

Attending in visioconference : Jenny Hiscock (STFC – UKRI – United Kingdom), Paul Callanan(ASI – Ireland), Thijs Geurts (SKAO), Vladimir Karas (Czech Republic), Jean Paul Kneib (SCNAT – Switzerland), Sarah Lucatello (EAS), Antoine Merand (ESO), Nanda Rea (CSIC – Spain), Hughes Sana (KU Leuven – Belgium), Philippe Stee (CNRS), Sven Wedemeyer (EAS)

9 :30

- Opening by Jenny Hiscock, chair of the Astronet board.
- Round table of presentations.
- Adoption of the agenda :
 - Election of the new chair
 - Discuss and decide of a new action plan for the coming years
 - Next meetings

Election of a new chair

The chair asked for potential new chair candidates.

Martin Giard (CNRS-France) was the only one to volunteer. He presented himself and proposed to raise a new action plan on the basis of a collective effort of all astronet board members and observers. Then he left the room to let the board discuss and decide.

The board unanimously approved the nomination of Martin Giard as new Astronet chair.

Discuss and decide of a new action plan for the coming years

Immediate actions :

1. M. Giard : discuss the Astronet MoU with CNRS so that we have an MoU to propose to the members.
2. S. Matheussen : see how to use the current Astronet budget available at NWO to have some adapted human ressource support at NWO.

The discussion focused on how to make the best use of the Roadmap and identifying those areas where ASTRONET can have impact. Five important subjects were identified for future

actions in the form of raising a working group, with a preliminary list of coordinator and participants (which of course remain open to more volunteers) :

- **WG1 : Link with APPEC and elaboration of common strategies**
M. Giard (coordinator), S. Matheussen, A. Haug, N. Rea, P. Chadwick, A. Kouchner (to be solicited)
- **WG2 : Future strategies for science with small telescopes : a concerted European exercise (including transnational access and « after ORP »)**
P. Callanan (coordinator), J. Hiscock, A. Merand, H. Sana, Ph. Stee,
- **WG3 : Building strategies to materialize the roadmap (EST, SKA-SRC, data science, etc.)**
M. Giard (coordinator), S. Sciortino, IAC (tbd), ESO (tbd), SKAO (tbd)
- **WG4 : Connections and joint policies with the EC and with key stakeholders (participation to EAS 2025)**
S. Matheussen (coordinator), S. Sciortino, S. Wedemeyer
- **WG5 : Sustainability and societal issues**
H. Sana (coordinator), SKAO (tbd), M. Giard (to find CNRS participant), ESO (tbd)

Coordinators should consolidate the working group, organise meetings, and define detailed actions for the next board meeting (March 2025).

Next meetings

- Online meeting in march 2025
Please fill in the survey before dec. 28th 2024:
<https://evento.renater.fr/survey/astronet-board-online-meeting-march-2025-u683yqct>
- Meeting at University College Cork (Ireland) during the EAS week (June 23rd to 27th 2025), to be fixed when the detailed agenda is known

15h30 :

- End of meeting
- The Astronet board would like to warmly thank Jesus Gallego and Colin Vincent, who have recently left the board, for their invaluable contributions to Astronet during the past decade.