ALBiUS Kick-Off Minutes

2-3 March 2009

Participants:

Paola Andreani	ESO
Stephen Bourke	JIVE
Patrick Charlot	Bordeaux Observatory
Giuseppe Cimo	JIVE
Ed Fomalont	NRAO
Gabriel Grigorescu	UCAM
Mark Kettenis	JIVE
Hans-Rainer Kloeckner	Oxford
Robert Laing	ESO
Huib van Langevelde	JIVE
Ronald Nijboer	ASTRON
Aukelien van den Poll	JIVE
Anita Richards	JBCA
Alan Roy	MPIfR
Michael Sipior	JIVE
Corina Vogt	ASTRON
Ger van Diepen	ASTRON
Hanno Holties	ASTRON
Andre van Es	ASTRON

The ALBiUS kick-off meeting was held in Dwingeloo on March 2nd (afternoon) and March 3rd (full day). The meeting was meant to focus on ALBiUS Work Packages and it consisted of two parts:
- Splinter sessions and Brainstorm;
- Presentations and Discussions.

The meeting started on **March 2** at 13:30 with a welcome message from Mike Garrett, the Radionet coordinator.
Afterwards, Huib van Langevelde started the meeting introducing rules and management structure of ALBiUS. In particular Huib van Langevelde introduced the partners of the project. A description of ALBiUS and the differences with the FP6 project ALBUS have been presented.

Andre van Es described the rules of engagement of Radionet FP7, focusing on financial and administrative issues of Radionet and in particular ALBiUS. It has been stressed out that time registration to quantify the man-month contribution of each institute, is very important. Then the Work Packages with the respective leading institutions, have been described by Huib van Langevelde. All participants institutes have been reminded of their role and their commitment to ALBiUS.

Instead of starting a splinter session, it was agreed to have a general brainstorm to discuss together some of the work packages and deliverables. In the course of the first afternoon, calibration issues have been discussed. In details the brainstorm focused on **primary beam** issues, **image plane polarization** and **direction-dependent calibration**. It was very important the contributions of the current LOFAR experience and the implementations of the CASA team. The contributions of the different partners have always taken into account the **interoperability** of the current and future implementations, considering Pyton and **ParselTongue** as natural interfaces for AIPS

and CASA and tools for cross-communication among the different data reduction software.

On **March 3**, the meeting started in the morning at 9:00. After a brainstorming session about **Global Fringe Fitting**, a splinter session started. The group divided in 2 subgroups where leading institutes and contributing partners discussed about particular deliverables, such as **Astrometry, Data Inspection and RFI Mitigation**. Then all the participants had some time to prepare presentations to summarize the outcome of the brainstorms and splinter sessions.

All the contributions can be downloaded from the ALBiUS Wiki (http://www.radionet-eu.org/fp7wiki/doku.php?id=jra:albius:meeting).

This is the list of presentations:

ALBiUS management	van Langevelde (JIVE)
Introduction and Rules of Engagement	van Es (ASTRON)/van den Poll (JIVE)
Breakdown of the project: Work Packages	van Langevelde (JIVE)
Framework and Distributed ParselTongue	Bourke/van Langevelde (JIVE)
Distributed ParselTongue	Kettenis/Sipior (JIVE)
Data Structure	Laing (ESO)
Global Fring Fitting	Fomalont (NRAO)
Astrometric positions	Charlot (BORD)
Ionospheric/Tropospheric	Richards (UMAN)
Primary beam/Mosaicing	Laing (ESO)
Distributed Processing Calibration and Source Parametrization	Nijboer (ASTRON)
Data Inspection	Kloeckner (UOXF)
RFI mitigation	Roy (MPG)
Final remarks	van Langevelde (JIVE)

At the end of the meeting, Huib van Langevelde expressed his satisfaction for the successful meeting. He pointed out that the work-package structure fits good for all partners. Some small details need to be discussed. Huib van Langevelde arose also the concerns about the hour counting which must be still implemented in most partner institutes.

Next meeting will be held in *Garching* in the summer.