



**Perspective, Management intro**

**Huib Jan van Langevelde, JIVE**

## • Perspective

- What is ALBiUS and what not
- Does it relate to ALBUS? Lessons learned.
- Produce software and fulfil EC requirements

## • Management

- Produce the deliverables and making eligible costs
- Tracking progress
- Reporting and other requirements

## • Kick-off meeting

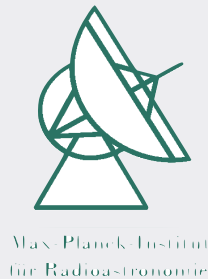
- How do we get going?
- What is free and what is fixed?
- Towards work-plans

## • Project components

- Work-packages
- Man-months, money, matching
- Deliverables
- A first matrix of work division

- **Software component in RadioNet**
  - RadioNet was an I3 activity in EC 6th Framework Program
  - And will be now an “Integrating Activity” in FP7
  - Software development in so-called Joint Research Activity
- **ALBUS (Advanced Long Baseline User Software)**
  - Budget 948k€, 4 partners, 4 year project (became 5)
    - Plus 100% matching at each institute
    - Most partners required to hire new staff on project
  - Started Jan 2004, must finish in 28 days....
- **ALBiUS (Advanced Long Baseline interoperable User Software)**
  - Or: more Advanced Long Baseline User Software
  - Budget 1000k€, 9 partners, 3 year project
    - Plus 75% of local matching after negotiations
    - Can write hours of staff on this program
  - Already started Jan 2009, must kick-off real work

- **Advanced Long Baseline interoperable User Software**
  - Or: more Advanced Long Baseline User Software
- **Participants: ASTRON, Bordeaux, Cambridge, ESO, JIVE, Manchester, MPIfR, NRAO, Oxford**



- **An EC sponsored contribution towards radio-astronomy data processing**
  - Across quite different range of facilities
  - And channel collaboration, meetings and exchanges
  - A platform for exchanging experiences, insights
  - A place to train new specialists
- **A set of related work-packages**
  - Hopefully funds for something you already wanted to do
  - A way to structure progress, write down results
  - And enforce communication

- **Cannot be: the global solution to user data processing problems**
  - Much too modest in funding
  - Distributed software development is hard
  - And too loosely organised
  
- **Should not be: a bureaucratic nightmare with rigid deliverables to be produced**
  - But EC requirements on reporting are specific
    - Not always a bad thing, forces one to take time to review progress

- **Considered a success in RadioNet FP6**

## Why?

- **Delivered some (not all) of its deliverables**
- **Did spend most of its resources, but not all**
- **Did some useful algorithm evaluation**
- **Brought new people into the domain**
- **Supported some new science with innovations**
- **Reached user domain with ParseITongue product**

- **The rules are not hard/though once you get going**
  - Write short reports quickly, do not aim for something big at the end
  - Rules on spending are more liberal for employment
- **Making available/getting the right people is all important**
  - Be flexible with your resource allocations
  - More important than meeting deliverables and original scope
- **Communication is hard but easier if you arrange exchanges rather than meetings**
- **Getting mileage out of your software is hard**
  - And all important!
  - Get students involved providing focus and urgency



# Things that must be done

- **Deliver the milestones**
  - After all it is a contract with the EC
  - **And put these in the public domain**
    - And hopefully get some use out of them
  - **Can be software packages and documentation, papers**
- **Produce eligible costs**
  - **Which means demonstrate the EC provided man-months**
  - **And make justification for matching man-months**
  - **And produce receipts for travelling**
    - Note that JRA funds are kept at institutes
- **And take part in the reporting process**
  - **Reports of meetings, presentations**
  - **Feedback to the project manager for board meetings and reviews**
  - **Annual reports, mid-term reports**
    - Including presentations and papers that refer to your work

- **Contract with the EC, signed by RadioNet**
  - To produce a stack of deliverables
  - For a contracted price
    - Some fraction will be pre-financed
    - Rest when demonstrated made eligible costs
    - Progress with deliverables checked in review exercises
- **Run by RadioNet consortium board**
  - May re-assign allocations between partners
    - But reluctant to do this much
- **Work laid down in Description of Work**
  - Almost final version....
  - Is an appendix to the contract
  - Is not very specific in the deliverables
    - In particular the form of software
    - Or metrics of usage
  - And some freedom on who does what, except lead partners

- **Is pretty pitiful and helpless in this project**
  - Has no control over resources
    - Other than through the board
  - Has to do all the nasty work (reporting, finances)
  - Has no other options than asking politely
- **Responsible for reporting to the board**
  - More meetings to go to!
- **Progress monitored on a wiki**
  - And a lot of e-mail through entire team
    - Probably would like additional list of management contact at every side
- **All this was loaded on Cormac Reynolds**
  - Who is now surfing the Western Australian coast
- **Will be shared with Giuseppe Cimo**
  - So include him on all e-mail