

---

# RadioNet3 Newsletter

October/November 2013

## In this issue

- “Positioning of Europe in SKA” 1
- RadioNet3 Mid Term Review 1
- ASTRONET news 2
- Opening Sardinia Telescope 2
- ERIS 2013 3
- LOFAR news 3
- IRAM summer school 4
- EWASS2013 4

### Round table “Positioning of Europe in the SKA”

Astronet, GO-SKA and RadioNet organized a Round Table meeting on the positioning of Europe in the SKA. The meeting took place on November 14, 2013 at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport.

The SKA project has made significant progress in the recent years. A legal organization and executive office have been established to manage the project and the site decision process has been completed. In Europe, the SKA appears as a flagship project on the Astronet Infrastructure Roadmap and has obtained a prominent position on the ESFRI Roadmap. While the global SKA project is progressing steadily, Europe will need to address the question “How can Europe get the most out of SKA?”

Coordination at European level is limited and there is general agreement that the European community would benefit from coordination and organisation. Astronet, GO-SKA and RadioNet have jointly organized a round table bringing together the key stakeholders from policy, science and funding organisations. The discussion on the organization of Europe in SKA intended to provide a platform for exchanging views, discussing strategic aspects and common goals. The aim is to strengthen the Pan-European positioning of Europe in the SKA.

### RadioNet3 Mid Term Review

RadioNet3 has been under review for the first 18 months of its activity. The Mid Term Review took place at the Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie in Bonn on November 18, 2013. The aim of a technical review is to assess the work carried out under the project over the period and provide recommendations to the Commission. The RadioNet3 reviewer was Prof. Richard Schilizzi, University of Manchester. The EC Commissioner Elena Righi-Steele attended the review session.

The reviewer’s task is to give external advice to the Commission on the project with respect to the degree of fulfillment of the project work plan, the breakthrough potential with respect to the scientific state of art, the resources planned and utilized, the management procedures, the beneficiaries contributions and integration, the expected potential impact in scientific and technological terms and the plans for the use and dissemination of results

The first periodic report of the RadioNet3 project was submitted to the EC on August 29, 2013. In this the activities done in the first 18 months by the management team, the 6 Networking activities, the 4 Joint Research Activities and the 9 Transnational Access facilities were described.

The meeting was opened by Rafael Bachiller, the Chairman of the RadioNet3 board. The coordinator, the Project Manager, the Project Scientist, the Transnational Access program leader and the Joint Research Activity leaders presented the activities done so far in the project. The review and recommendations by Prof. Schilizzi followed afterwards.





## European Radio Telescope Review Committee ASTRONET

The European Radio Telescope Review Committee (ERTRC) has been set up by the board of [ASTRONET](#). ASTRONET has established a [Science Vision](#) that describes the key science questions to be addressed until ~2025 and a [roadmap](#) that identifies the major facilities needed. The ETRTC has been asked to provide a review addressing the role of present and future radio facilities in achieving the Science Vision and has been provided with well-defined [Terms of Reference](#).

The ETRTC recommendations were presented to the wider community on July 13, 2013 at the EWASS2013 meeting in Turku. They have now been made available at the website <http://ertrc.strw.leidenuniv.nl>

It is the aim of the ETRTC to fully benefit from the involvement of the community of astronomers in preparing its recommendations and reports. As stated by Ralph Wijers, Chair of the ETRTC, everyone (from all of the astronomy community, not only the radio astronomy community) is encouraged to leave any comments, ideas and questions on the website mentioned above.

### ASTRONET community forum

The ASTRONET community forum is open to the entire astronomical community based in Europe. This forum is intended for the discussion of the Science Vision and Infrastructure Roadmap updates. All relevant posts are welcome. Please register before reading the posted documents and posting your own comments and suggestions.

<http://www.forum-astronet-eu.org>

### ASTRONET Update Infrastructure Roadmap

The ASTRONET Infrastructure Roadmap published in 2008 presented a strategic plan for the development of European Astronomy. One of the original requirements of the plan was to have a light-touch update mid-way through the term. The Science Vision document has now been updated and can be found on the webpage below. The conclusions from this update feed into the Roadmap update. This document (v0.1) is the first draft in that process and is now available for community input during the summer of 2013

[http://www.astronet-eu.org/IMG/pdf/ASTRONET\\_IR\\_v0\\_1.pdf](http://www.astronet-eu.org/IMG/pdf/ASTRONET_IR_v0_1.pdf)

## The Sardinia Radio Telescope Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the Sardinia Radio Telescope took place on September 30, 2013. The Undersecretary to the Ministry of Education, University and Research of the Italian Government Marco Rossi Doria and the President of the Sardinia Region Ugo Cappellacci performed the ribbon cutting ceremony. Giovanni Bignami, president of the Italian National Institute for Astrophysics read an inaugural address by the President of Italy Giorgio Napolitano. Anton Zensus gave a speech on behalf of RadioNet and EVN and Huib Jan van Langevelde on behalf of JIVE. Many local administrators and people took part in the event.

The main Italian newspapers and television channels highlighted the opening.



More information can be found here:

[http://www.oa-cagliari.inaf.it/page.php?id\\_page=75&level=3](http://www.oa-cagliari.inaf.it/page.php?id_page=75&level=3)

Pictures of the ceremony can be found here:

<http://www.ira.inaf.it/foto/2013-09-srt/index.html>  
<http://unica.it/pub/7/show.jsp?id=23792&iso=-2&is=7>

The ceremony is available in streaming at

<http://www.streamago.tv/iframe/2831/srt/>



## ERIS 2013 Fifth European Radio Astronomy School

Almost 100 astronomers attended the ERIS at ASTRON, the Netherlands, ranging from first year postgraduates to emeritus professors extending their expertise to long wavelengths. Lectures covered the principles and practice of radio interferometry, supplemented by hands-on data reduction tutorials and troubleshooting practise. The scope of ERIS is steadily expanding from upgraded or new dish-based arrays like e-MERLIN and ALMA to e-VLBI and novel instrumentation such as APERTIF (which was viewed during the Westerbork visit) to all-sky instruments like LOFAR. Evening lectures covered the full span of radio interferometry from the early dipoles used to investigate cosmic rays, to innovations for the SKA. ERIS co-sponsors included [DAGAL](#) and their group contributed one of the most ambitious projects, for a high-z HI survey, in the proposal-writing exercise. All teaching material and the list of sponsors is on-line at <http://www.astron.nl/eris2013>



### LOFAR: A driver for smart and sustainable growth in Europe's region

LOFAR (Low Frequency Array) is a next-generation radio telescope that is currently being deployed across Europe, with stations already operating in the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, the UK and France. Other stations are planned in Italy, Poland, Latvia and Ireland. The Irish LOFAR project, I-LOFAR, will be showcased during the seminar.

On the afternoon of 5 November 2013, a seminar on "LOFAR-A driver for smart and sustainable growth in Europe's regions", will take place in Brussels, Belgium. More information on the [website](#)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### RadioNet3 Science meetings

- [Calibration of Multi-Beam Receivers](#), 28-29 Oct 2013, Bologna, IT
- [The Radio Universe@Ger's \(wave\)-length](#), 4-7 Nov 2013, Groningen, NL
- Germano Node ALMA CD, 5-6 Nov 2013, Bonn, DE
- Alma Community Days, 19-20 Nov 2013, Garching, DE
- The Galactic Centre Black Hole Laboratory, 19-22 Nov 2013, Granada, ES
- Transformational Science with the SKA and Synergies with ALMA and other Contemporary Instruments, 17-21 February 2014, Stellenbosch, RSA

### RadioNet3 Training opportunities

- ERIS 2014 will be organised by IRAM.
- YERAC - Institutes in Poland and Latvia have volunteered for 2014 and 2015.
- Single dish school – It will be organised by IRAM in 2015.
- Solar radio astronomers. A school will be held in 2014 or 2015.

### RadioNet3 Past events

- [Radio Interference in Large Bandwidth Observation](#), 8-12 Apr 2013, Bonn, DE
- [Conference: "The Modern Radio Universe"](#), 22-26 Apr. 2013, Bonn, DE
- [Conference 'Neutron Stars'](#), 6-10 May 2013, Amsterdam, NL
- [Workshop 'Locating Astrophysical Transients'](#), 13-17 May 2013, Leiden, NL
- [Workshop 'The Innermost Regions of Relativistic Jets and Their Magnetic Fields'](#), 10-14 June 2013, Granada, ES
- [New eyes looking at solar activity: Challenges for theory and simulations](#), 24-29 June 2013, Prague, CZ
- [Workshop "Radio Halos of Galaxies"](#), 1-5 July 2013, Leiden, NL
- Large Scale Science Projects: Europe-Africa Connects, 9-12 Sep 2013, Mauritius
- (IEEE in Africa IEEE AFRICON 2013 - <http://africon2013.org/>)
- [ERIS 2013](#), 9-13 Sep 2013, ASTRON, NL
- [7th IRAM 30m Summer School](#), 13-20 Sep 2013, Pradollano, Granada, ES
- [Conference: SKA-Euclid synergies](#), 16-18 Sep 2013, Oxford, UK
- [XXXIII YERAC](#), 30 Sep - 3 Oct 2013, Bielefeld, DE

## 7th IRAM 30m Summer School 2013

IRAM hosted its 7th summer school at the 30-m telescope, Pico Veleta, Spain, in September. This not only provides lectures and tutorials on mm-wave single-dish instrumentation, data processing, interpretation and science, but, uniquely, includes planning and executing a project including hands-on observing as well as data reduction. The 40 participants (out of 145 applicants) investigated problems concerning Solar system bodies, the physics and chemistry of the ISM and star formation in the Milky Way and other galaxies. All teaching material and the list of sponsors is on-line at <http://www.iram-institute.org/EN/content-page-265-7-67-265-0-0.html>



### Weblinks

<http://www.radionet-eu.org/>

<http://www.radionet-eu.org/events-archive>

<http://www.astronet-eu.org/>

<http://ec.europa.eu/research>

<http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020>

## RadioNet3 at EWASS2013

The Special Session (Sp2) entitled “The role of modern radio observatories in black hole and jet studies” was organized by RadioNet3 on 8 July 2013 at the coming European Week of Astronomy and Space Science. The organizers of Sp2 were Franco Mantovani, Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie, Bonn, Germany, Tuomas Savolainen, Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie, Bonn, Germany, and Merja Tornikoski, Aalto University Metsähovi Radio Observatory, Finland.

The EWASS2013 Conference was held in Turku, Finland, 8-12 July 2013.

[\(http://www.astro.utu.fi/EWASS2013/\)](http://www.astro.utu.fi/EWASS2013/)

Eight talks were given to an audience of about 40 people, mainly non-radio astronomers. The invited speakers were the Prof. Andreas Eckart (University of Cologne), who presented an "Overall view of SgrA\*"; Prof. Heino Falcke (IMAPP, Radboud Universiteit, Nijmegen) who presented the “Event Horizon Telescope”; Dr. Mikhail Popov (Astro Space Centre, Moscow) who illustrated the "Science with RadioAstron”; and Prof. Eduardo Ros (University of Valencia, MPIfR, Bonn) who told the audience about “Supermassive BHs and powerful jets in AGN”.

One of the aims of the Special Session was to inform a wider astronomical community about the RadioNet3 project. This was done in a talk by Franco Mantovani, RadioNet3 Project Scientist.

All the presentations are available at the web site

<https://indico.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/indico/conferenceDisplay.py?ovw=True&confId=4>



**editor: Franco Mantovani**  
**Lay-out: Aukelien van den Poll**