



## **Towards a Global VLBI Alliance**

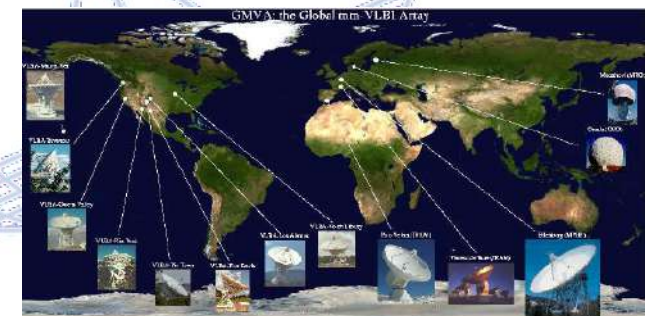
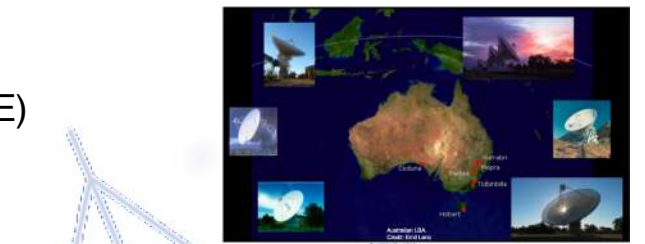
Paco Colomer (JIVE ERIC)

# Who are we?



## Representatives of the major VLBI networks:

- Very Long Baseline Array (VLBA, USA): Walter Brisken, director.
- European VLBI Network (EVN): Tiziana Venturi (chair CBD) and Paco Colomer (JIVE)
- East Asian VLBI Network (EAVN): Hideyuki Hobayashi (board)
- Long Baseline Array (LBA, Australia): Chris Phillips (rep. many roles!)
- Global mm-VLBI Array (GMVA): Eduardo Ros (coordinator @ MPIfR)

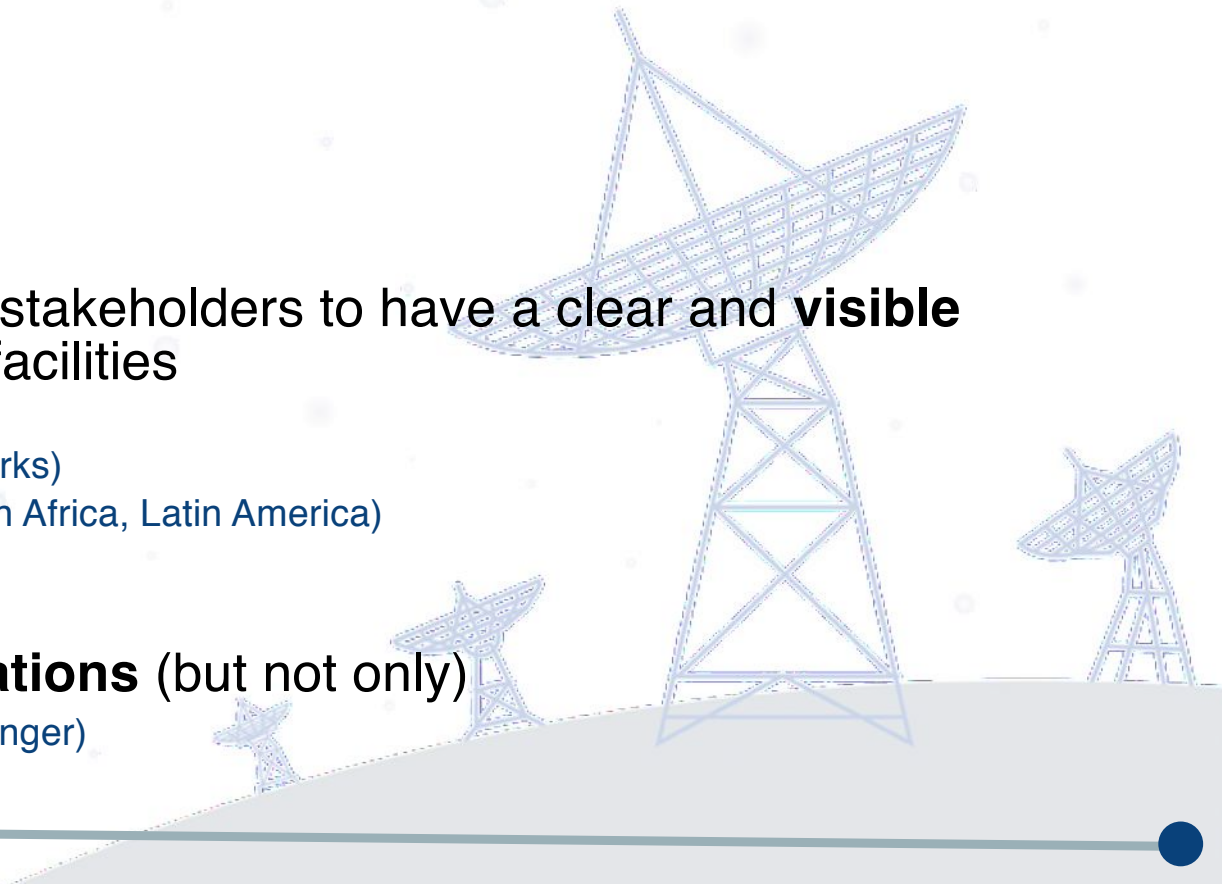


Global VLBI Alliance, Feb 3 2021 (by zoom)

# Why a Global VLBI Alliance?



- To **share information** in a timely and structured way between VLBI networks
  - Strategic developments (also to exploit complementarity)
  - Science vision
  - Technology paths
  - Proposal evaluation
  - Logistics
  - Scheduling
  - And keep inventory of the developments
- For (non-expert) users and other stakeholders to have a clear and **visible entry/contact point** to the VLBI facilities
  - GVA web
  - Extended user support (also among networks)
  - Support to new facilities and groups (e.g. in Africa, Latin America)
  - Education and outreach of VLBI
- Also to **coordinate joint observations** (but not only)
  - In particular with third parties (multi-messenger)



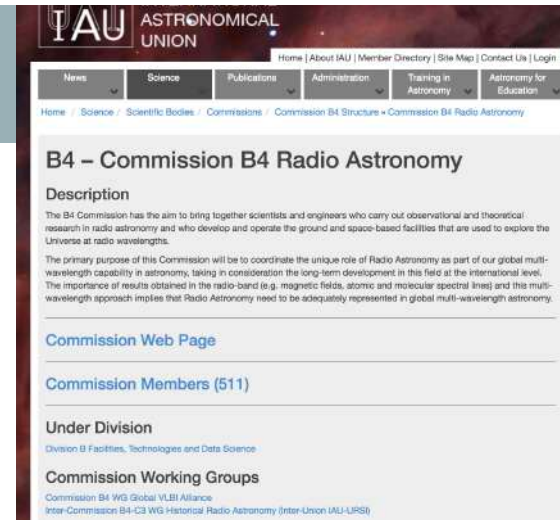
# How to set a Global VLBI Alliance?

- As a Working Group in IAU B4

[https://www.iau.org/science/scientific\\_bodies/commissions/B4/](https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/commissions/B4/)

- Proposed structure:

- GVA Director's Forum (GVAD): VLBI network directors or representatives (2 per network) to discuss any aspect of the global cooperation. By invitation.
- Science Forum (GVAS): evaluates and fosters the unique and complementary contribution of VLBI to astrophysical research. **Open to the whole IAU**, members are active scientists, not necessarily linked to any of the VLBI networks in the GVA.
- Technical R&D Forum (GVAT): discusses opportunities and coordinates the development of new instrumentation or procedures.
- Operations and Logistics Team (GVAO): facilitates and coordinates observations scheduled with several VLBI networks, or with participation of third-party instruments (e.g. multiwavelength/multimessenger). By invitation.
- Communication and outreach Team (GVAC): coordinates activities and tools to increase the scientific and societal impact of VLBI. By invitation.
- The GVAS, GVAT, GVAO and GVAC, all report to the GVAD.





# Points for discussion



- Confirm structure in GVA “Forum” (sci, tech?) and “teams” (logistics, comms)
- Confirm people to be invited to the GVA teams, from each VLBI network
- Timelines for setup and (first) meeting of GVA teams
  - Periodicity of future meetings
- Confirm WG in IAU B4
- GVA WG Coordinator (“*Primus inter pares*”)
- Website, initial announcement
- Events of GVA interest:
  - Scientific symposia: EAVN (March 2-5 2021, online), EVN (July 12-16 2021, online), URSI J04 (August 29-2021, hybrid), ...
  - Schools:
  - Workshops: IVTW, ...
  - Other: EVN/GMVA TOG (May 2021), ...

