

Towards a Global VLBI Alliance

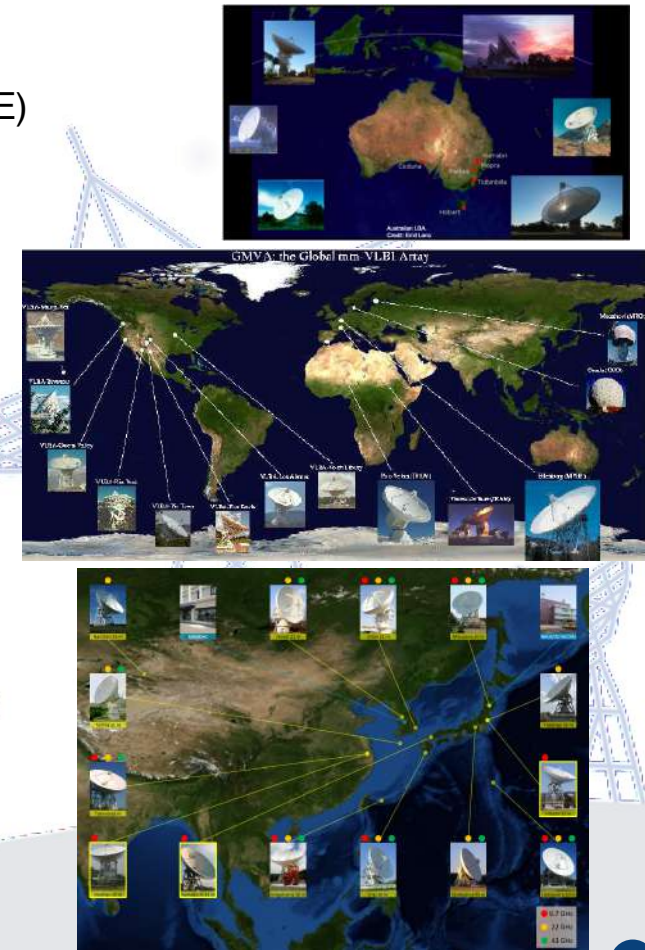
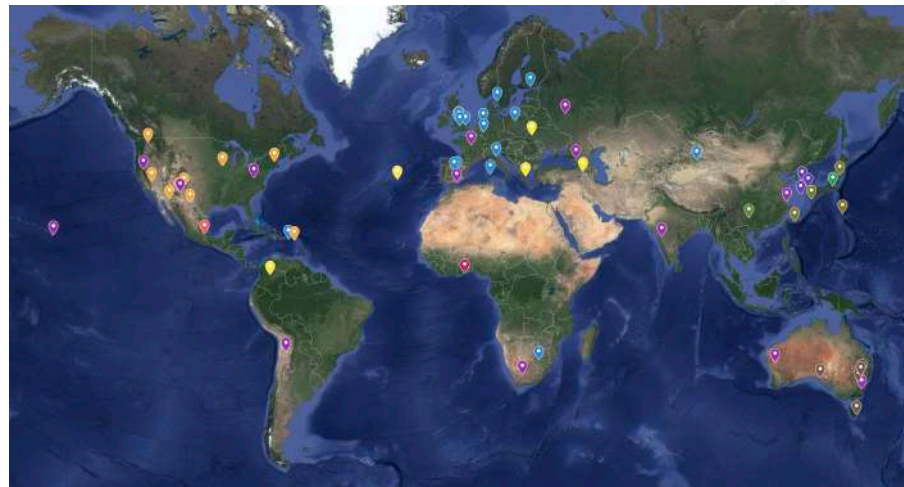
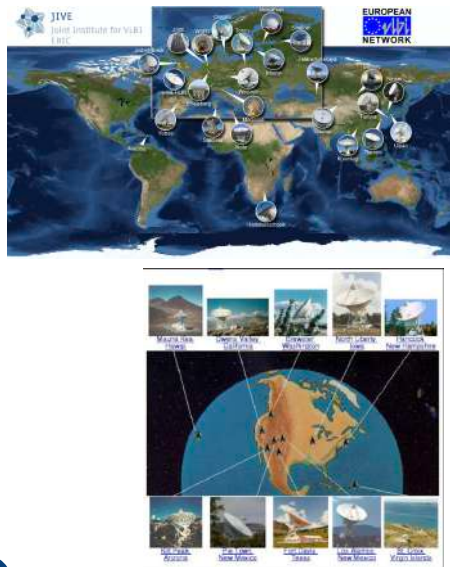
Paco Colomer (JIVE ERIC)

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)

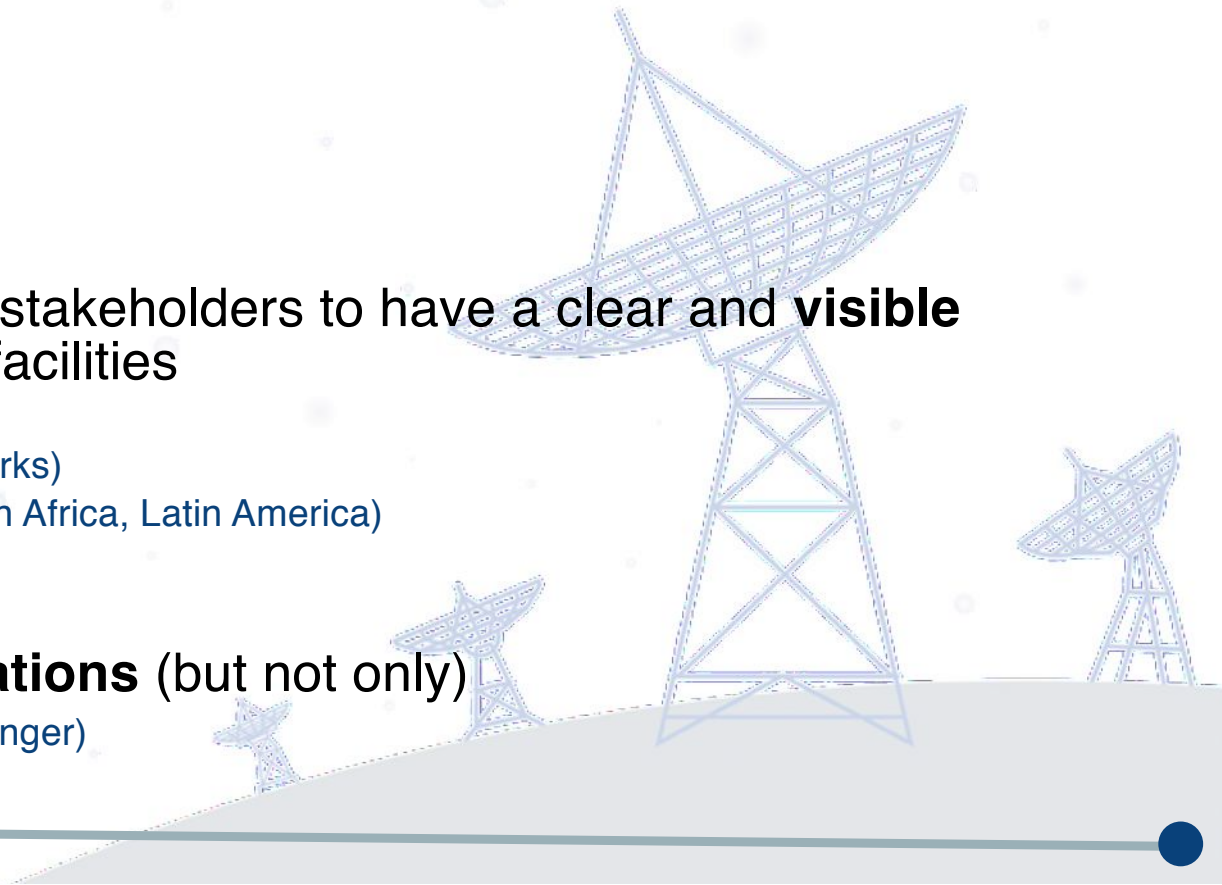


Global VLBI Alliance, Feb 3 2021 (by zoom)

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)



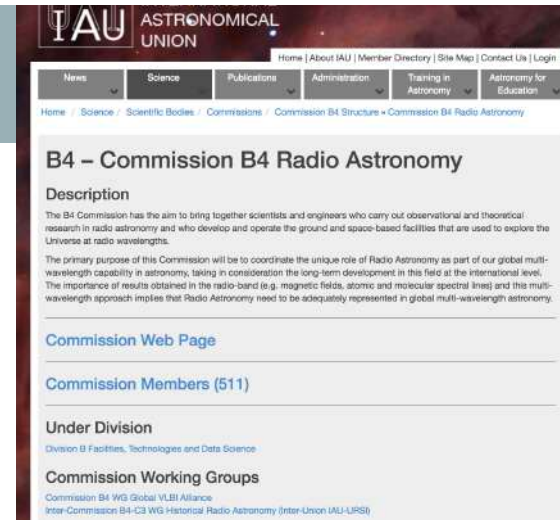
How to set a Global VLBI Alliance?

- As a Working Group in IAU B4

https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/commissions/B4/

- 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 Team (GVAT): discusses opportunities and coordinates the development of new instrumentation or procedures. By invitation.
- 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).
- 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 teams”
- Confirm people to be invited to the GVA teams, from each VLBI network
- Timelines for setup and (first) meeting of GVA teams
- 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), ...

