

Towards a Global VLBI Alliance

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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)

Global VLBI Alliance, Feb 3 2021 (by zoom)

How to set a Global VLBI Alliance?

• As a Working Group in IAU B4

https://www.iau.org/science/scientific bodies/commissions/B4/

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B4 – Commission B4 Radio Astronomy	¹ JIVE
Description	
The B4 Commission has the aim to bring together scientists and engineers who carry cut observational and theoretical research in radio astronomy and who develop and operate the ground and space-based facilities that are used to explore the Universe at radio wavelengths.	
The primary purpose of this Commission will be to coordinate the unique role of Radio Addressing as part of our global multi- wavelength capability in astronomy, taking in consideration the long-term devisionment in this field at the interactional avel, the importance of needsho obtained in the advoctional equipants fields, shown and movemal spectral lineit and the multi- wavelength approach implies that Radio Astronomy need to be adequately represented in global multi-wavelength astronomy.	
Commission Web Page	
Commission Members (511)	
Under Division	
Division B Facilities, Technologies and Data Science	
Commission Working Groups	
Commission B4 WG Global VLBI Alliance Inter-Commission B4-C3 WG Historical Radio Astronomy (Inter-Union MU-URS)	<u> /</u>

• 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), ...

