



# NEWSLETTER

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## NEWSLETTER #10

Latest updates for the ORP Consortium

Dear ORP Consortium members,

At the beginning of this new year, we are delighted to wish you a very happy new year of 2023. May it be full of joy, happiness and success.

The year 2022 has been particularly busy and it ended with the first Consortium Meeting. It was a very pleasant moment with very interesting discussions. We would like to thank SKAO again for hosting us and allowing us to discover, for some, for the very first time this remarkable facility.

We would also like to inform you that Paco Colomer, Chairman of the Exec, and Jorge Rivero, Head of Communications, have left ORP to pursue new adventures in Spain. We express our warmest thanks to them for all they have contributed to ORP and wish them good luck in their new activities. It has been a real pleasure and an honour to work with you at ORP!

Hoping that you will have as much pleasure reading this letter as we had preparing it,  
Stéphane BASA, on behalf of the EMT

## ORP Code of Conduct adopted

ORP is a large collaboration that brings together people of different abilities, backgrounds, and perspectives who share an interest in promoting and advancing the astronomical sciences.

The ORP Consortium strives for an inclusive and respectful environment and is committed to respecting and embracing equity, diversity, and inclusion in people, ideas, and opinions and providing a welcoming environment for all members of our international community. On this basis, a [Code of Conduct](#) was adopted, to which all should adhere.

## Current ORP TNA Opportunities Open

ORP Transnational Access opportunities presently open:

- EVN
- Effelsberg
- European ARC Network

## 11th IRAM millimetre interferometry school on 21-25 November 2022

The ORP project funded the 11th IRAM millimetre interferometry school, which was held at the IRAM headquarters in Grenoble, France, on 21-25 November 2022 as an in-person event. Over 60 participants learned about the basics of millimetre interferometry techniques, data calibration and imaging, and visited practical tutorials on interferometric data calibration and imaging in small groups of students tutorials on proposal writing. [Read more.](#)

## ORP Consortium Meeting on 29-30 November 2022



The [ORP Consortium Meeting](#) took place on 29-30 November 2022 at SKAO headquarters at Jodrell Bank (UK) hosted by the University of Manchester. 48 participants attended and met each other for the first time, 27 participated by zoom. It was a successful meeting, not only in terms of facts and figures of the project, but also in terms of establishing useful contacts and making two communities come together.

The ORP coordinator asks participants for feedback on the meeting organisation. Please fill out the [questionnaire](#) for feedback.

## Changes in the ORP-team

**Francisco Colomer**, JIV-ERIC Director (2018 - 2022) and ORP Exec Chair left JIV-ERIC at the end of 2022 and thus also the ORP project.

**Agnieszka Słowikowska**, ORP Chair of the Board and the Board member of NCU (PL), has been appointed as the next JIV-ERIC Director, and started her new position in January 2023.

**John McKean**, the leader of the WP5/JA4 Training (radio) takes up a position at SKA South Africa and thus left the ORP. Roberto Pizzo (ASTRON) takes over the lead of the JA4 Training on radio infrastructures.

**Jorge Rivero**, ORP Communications Officer left JIV-ERIC and also ORP at the end of 2022.

Until the appointment of a new ORP Communications Officer, the outreach team members J. Casado Iglesias (MPIfR/ORP Radio assistant) and C. Lambert (CNRS/ORP Project Coordinator assistant) keep the outreach machinery running with the input and support of the WP leaders and the Management team.

## 2023 Proposal Writing School

This on-line school, funded by the ORP project (JA4), is an introductory-level overview of the proposal writing process with a focus on ORP-supported facilities and infrastructures. It will take place on four Mondays during the time period 20 February-20 March 2023. Read more [here](#).

[Registration](#) is open until **20 January 2023**.

## 2023 Instrumentation School

The ORP funded 2023 Instrumentation School will take place on 17-26 May 2023 in Milan, Italy. Participants will have the opportunity to do a 'Phase A' study of an instrument. They will plan an instrument in small groups led by an experienced tutor. During the first week the mornings are dedicated to lectures and the afternoons to group work. During the second week the students will concentrate on group work. At the end of the school, all groups will present their instrument plans.

Find more information [here](#).

## Subscribe to the ORP External Newsletter

The external ORP newsletter aims at the international astronomical community to showcase the benefits of bringing the optical and radio astronomical ground-based communities together in the ORP framework. **Subscription for the newsletter is available [here](#).**

Please help us spread the update to reach out to as many people as possible!

## ORP Activities

During the period 15 November 2022 - 15 January 2023 the following activities have been organised:

**JA2.3 Common frameworks for data access and processing procedures | 16 November 2022** - JA2.3 started with its kick-off meeting via Zoom. The topic was the work package in general, but equally important, also the collaboration between the participants. The first JA2.3 deliverable, D2.3 due February 2023, is a gap analysis of science platforms, to which the partner participants contribute through an interview. In addition, various platforms and developments were discussed. The presentation can be found on redmine.

**JA2.2a Time-Domain Multi-Facility & Multi-Frequency access to Research Infrastructures - Monthly update meeting | 24 November 2022** -

**Multi-wavelength targets:** the individual page from BHTOM for Gaia20azc was shown. Several observatories follow this target, as it is a rapidly changing blazar/quasar with brightness changes unexpected for this type of object.

**Updates on the BHTOM features:** The file processing was updated to reach 100% reliable astrometry. Work is in progress on the return codes of the software to provide users with exact details on the success or failure of the file processing.

**EVN toolkit plugin:** a backend website where EVN telescopes can register their availability has been set up. The information in the database about when and at what observing band they are available is combined with the received requests from the EVN TOM frontend module to schedule observations. A prototype for this is basically done. The system will be tested with the help from colleagues at Toruń radio observatory.

**AEON developments towards MS 4:** Because of the protected environment of the REM telescope it is difficult to communicate with it. As an initial test, it was decided to use a simpler approach than fully-automated AEON requires. An email-based submission system was operational in the past and will be restarted. In this system a user with the correct authorisation can submit observations through email. A TOM Toolkit module to generate and send the correct email format will be developed.

**JA4 Radio Training | 7 December 2022** - Radio training group met to give an update on activities. J. McKean resigned from the leadership of JA4, his successor will be R. Pizzo. The transition was very well organised by J. McKean, R. Pizzo and H. Korhonen. From this meeting, R. Pizzo took over. The group reported the planned schools for 2023 and decided to push towards representing optical telescopes at radio schools. The group is working on finding a suitable long-term safe and accessible platform for all developed school materials.

## Upcoming ORP-related Activities & Events

13 February 2023 - virtual – [TA/VA radio leaders meeting](#)

20 February – 20 March 2023 (Mondays/remote) – [Proposal Writing School](#)

26 January 2023 – virtual – [JA2.2a monthly update meeting](#)

15 March 2023 – Berlin/DE – [JA2 all hands meeting](#)

17-26 May 2023 – Milan/IT – [2023 Instrumentation School](#)

5-9 June 2023 – Dwingeloo/NL – [CASA VLBI Workshop](#)

4-8 September 2023 – Manchester/UK – [European ALMA school](#)



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