



# NEWSLETTER

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RADIONET PILOT



## NEWSLETTER #14

Latest updates for the ORP Consortium

Dear colleagues,

Once again, the period was particularly intense, with the submission of the second report (RP2) and the Review with the Commission, as well as the organization of the second Consortium Meeting at the ESO headquarter.

First, I'd like to take this opportunity to send you the congratulations of Sven De Rijcke, the referee, and Ioannis Andredakis, our Project Officer, for the quality of the work presented during the Review. At the end of the meeting, they were keen to highlight the quality of the report and the presentations, and were very happy "to see such a grand-scale project moving properly forward in practically all aspects ».

Secondly, the Consortium Meeting was a very important moment of discussion and conviviality which enabled us to see the progress we've made over the next 3 years, as well as some very nice results. Many milestones have now been reached, and it will now be important to properly capitalize on all this work.

But it's all been made possible thanks to all of you, and I'd like to congratulate everyone on behalf of the entire EMT team.

In the meantime, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and, with a little anticipation, a wonderful New Year 2024.

Stéphane Basa, on behalf of the EMT

**Current ORP TNA Opportunities Open**

ORP Transnational Access opportunities presently open:

- [European ARC Network](#): **No specific deadline**

## 2nd Reporting Period

The second reporting period ended on August 31, 2023, and the report was submitted by EMT on November 2, 2023. This was a major effort (the final report is almost 90 pages long) which involved the EMT and all the WP leaders for several weeks.

The EC review took place just after the conclusion of the Consortium Meeting, on the afternoon of November 23, 2023.

The official committee report is due before the Christmas holidays.

## Congratulations to Francesca Primas: Awarded by ASP for promoting gender equity



The ORP JA1.4 Accessibility Equal Opportunities and Diversity leader Francesca Primas, full astronomer at [ESO](#), has been honoured with the [inaugural Nancy Grace Roman Award](#) by the [Astronomical Society of the Pacific](#). Read [more](#).

## Preserving the sky for future generations

The World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) began on 20 November and will continue until the 15th of December in Dubai, the Emirates. In response to increasing challenges to the radio sky, the radio astronomy community has submitted specific agenda items in order to add the topic of satellite constellation interference to the agenda of the next conference in 2027.

Agenda items were submitted by the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations ([CEPT](#)) and by the African Telecommunication Union ([ATU](#)), with ATU's agenda item focusing on the international protection of [radio quiet zones](#). These agenda items are closely connected with the significant endeavors of the IAU Centre for the Protection of the Dark and Quiet Sky from Satellite Constellation Interference (CPS). Key contributors to these efforts are its members, in particular the European Science Foundation's Committee on Radio Astronomy Frequencies (CRAF), the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO), and the SKA Observatory (SKAO), which co-hosts CPS. They have long been advocating for enhanced protection of radio astronomy against the adverse effects of satellite constellations.

"Preserving the sky for future generations is one of the most important goals of the Opticon-RadioNet Pilot (ORP). We have therefore actively contributed to these initiatives", Michael Kramer, director of the Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy and Chair of the ORP sky protection group said. Read [more](#).

## ORP funded: 14th Gaia Science Alerts and ORP Time-Domain Workshop

The annual Time-Domain Astronomy workshop held in Valletta/MT and online on 2-5 October 2023 marked the 14th workshop under the Gaia Science Alerts banner, now expanded to include other optical and radio time-domain surveys. With 65 participants, the event promoted networking, unveiled the updated BHTOM version 2 platform, and included practical sessions on its use. Workshop talks are available on YouTube, with event highlights shared on Twitter/X under #14\_GAIA\_ORP\_MALTA\_2023. Read [more](#).

## ORP funded: e-MERLIN Data School 2023

From 23-25 October 2023, e-MERLIN held its first data school at Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics (JBCA). Over three days, 6 participants - the maximum possible number - learned about e-MERLIN data analysis using the e-MERLIN CASA Pipeline. School material is available from the logistics part [here](#). Read [more](#).

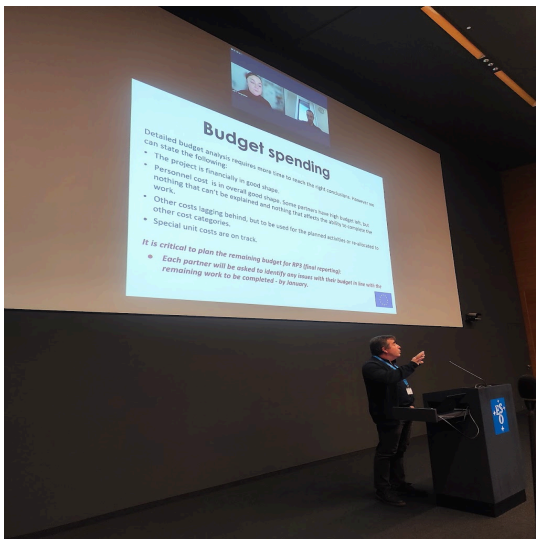
## ORP Consortium meeting - 21, 22, 23 November 2023

The [ORP Consortium Meeting](#) took place at ESO headquarters in Garching (DE) over three days, from 21 to 23 November 2023. It was attended by 54 participants on site and 7 online, for a total of 71 registrants.

This meeting was marked by several events: Parallel WP sessions organised by WP leaders as well as Executive/Board meetings and the project review.

Overall, the meeting proved highly fruitful, allowing us to spotlight the progress across all work packages. We are now in the best possible position to plan the project's future counting on an enhanced collaboration of our two communities and the support of the two other Pilots.

The ORP coordinator is asking participants for their comments on the organisation of the Consortium meeting. Please feel free to fill in the [questionnaire](#) and give your feedback.



During the period 15 September - 15 December 2023 the following activities have been organised:

**JA2 Seamless Performance - on the task “multi-facility call”:** On 24 and 30 October 2023, interested and involved telescope directors/representatives met online to discuss the first steps forward to an ORP multi-facility call to be issued in early 2024.

**JA2.2 Seamless Performance - Time-Domain Multi-Facility & Multi-Frequency Access to Research Infrastructures:** Three monthly meetings were held since the summer. Starting from the last one, 30 November 2023, the time slot for the meeting is shifted to the end of the afternoon in order to accommodate Las Cumbres Observatory (LCO) staff to join them.

The task is progressing well: the presence of LCO staff is because knowledge of and experience with several topics being worked on, such as OAuth2 access by a TOM facility module or Virtual Observatory protocols to access (radio) archives, are now of common interest to the partners. A completely updated version of the BlackholeTOM (BHTOM2) was presented at the 14th Gaia Science Alerts and ORP Time-Domain Workshop, held in Valletta (Malta) 2-5 Oct 2023. The upgraded system features more accurate photometry and improves on the processing speed and now holds more than 110.000 FITS images. Ten telescopes are scheduled to be added to the system. At the ORP-PILOT consortium meeting held in Munich 21-23 Nov 2023, the EVN BHTOM plugin was integrated in the test-version of BHTOM, such that now it is possible to start testing with a proper "live" system.

**JA4 Radio Training:** The group met on 25 September and 12 December 2023 for an update on the progress. The partners reported about the schools held since the last meeting and those planned before the end of the ORP project. They are also taking a critical look at the budget remaining in ORP and are discussing possible re-allocations based on specific needs. The progress with JA4 was presented at the past Consortium meeting in Munich and received very positive comments from the entire Consortium. Training is recognized as a very fundamental and successful component of the project.

Since the last newsletter, the [e-MERLIN data school](#) was held in Manchester on 23-25 October 2023. Through this event, researchers interested in using the e-MERLIN ORP infrastructure learned about the e-MERLIN CASA pipeline from the in-house e-MERLIN operations team.

## Upcoming ORP-related Activities & Events

15-19 April 2024 – Dwingeloo/NL – [7th LOFAR Data School](#)

10-14 June 2024 – Manchester/UK – [European ALMA School](#)

10-14 September 2024 – Manchester/UK – [ALMA School for ALMA users](#)

30 September - 04 October 2024 – Granada/ES - [ERIS 2024](#)



## Subscribe to the ORP External Newsletter

The external ORP newsletter is aimed at the international astronomical community to publicise the framework and activities of the project, and in particular draw attention to the benefits of bringing together the optical and radio astronomical ground-based communities. **Subscription for the newsletter is available [here](#).**

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



We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !



Bonjour, 123



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