



NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER #18

Latest updates for the ORP Consortium

Dear colleagues,

Once again, the period was particularly dense, culminating in the third and final consortium meeting in Marseille. This was a very pleasant opportunity to make a complete review of the activities and to start thinking about the future. It is very satisfying to note that none of the activities is in a critical situation and that all the objectives, and even beyond, will be met. This is due to everyone's hard work, and we would like to express our profound gratitude to everyone for their dedication to the project.

In the meantime, we're coming to the end of the project, and the next step will be to deliver the third report by the end of April 2025 (everyone will receive the recommendations at the very beginning of the year). But as you'll see in this newsletter, there are still plenty of events to come between now and then, and everyone is naturally invited to attend them, including the scientific meetings (the next one is on December 20), without any moderation.

Finally, we'd like to wish everyone a very happy end-of-year celebration and, with a little anticipation, a happy new year 2025. May it be full of joy and happiness,

Stéphane Basa, on behalf of the EMT

Current ORP TNA Opportunities Open

ORP Transnational Access opportunities presently open:

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

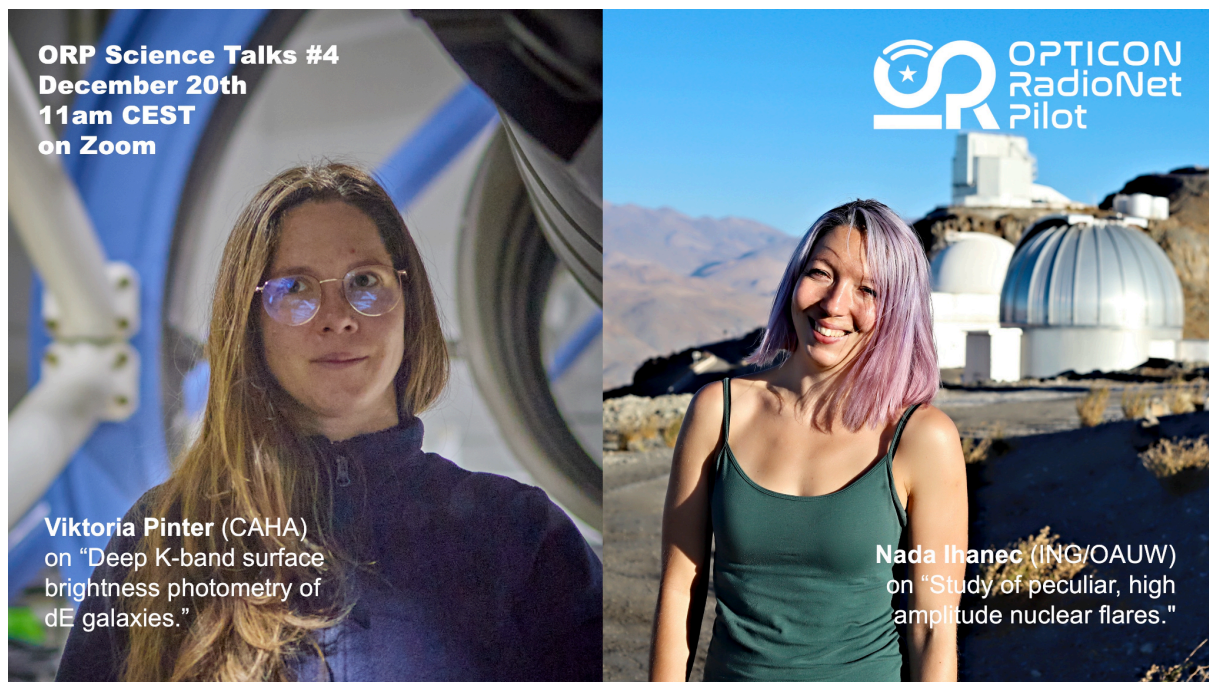
ORP science talk

The 'ORP science talk' is a one-hour webinar that takes place on zoom, to give the community (ORP and, we hope, beyond) the opportunity to present its work and scientific results. Each meeting consists of two scientific presentations based on the ORP results.

On 25 September at 11 am CEST, we welcomed Antonia Drescher who talked about "The inner 250 mas of Sgr A* with GRAVITY", followed by Taro Shimizu who presented "A New Era of Precision SMBH masses with GRAVITY+". You can view the video recording [here](#)!

🚀 On **Friday 20 December** at **11 am CET**, we will welcome **Viktoria Pinter (CAHA)** who will talk about "*The Deep K-band surface brightness photometry of dE galaxies*".

She will be followed by **Nada Ihanec (ING/OAUW)** who will present a "*Study of peculiar, high amplitude nuclear flares*". 🚀



Join the talk [here](#) ! (20th Dec, 11am CET).

We're looking for volunteers! 😊

Feel free to pass on this information to anyone who might be interested in sharing their scientific work at this virtual meeting (internal & external ORP).

→ contact outreach@orp-h2020.eu if you have any ideas for presentations or need more information.

ORP Activities

During the period 15 September 2024 - 15 December 2024 the following activities have been organised:

JA2 Seamless Performance: On 15th & 16th October 2024, the JA2 Seamless Performance team met for a face-to-face meeting at the Royal Observatory Edinburgh, UK. Aim of the meeting was to assess the project outcomes relative to the original project objectives and map out actions to ensure the long-lived legacy and impact of the work. All subgroups reported on their work during the project and presented their results. Whilst JA2 was an incredibly ambitious activity, the team were very satisfied with the success in the realisation of the tasks despite the challenging circumstances, like, e.g. the pandemic and the group members all agreed that the collaboration and interaction on the developer's level should continue beyond ORP.

JA2.2 Time-Domain Multi-Facility & Multi-Frequency access to Research Infrastructures: The JA2.2 group met online at the regular monthly meetings. Subsets of JA2.2 partners met face-to-face at the Gaia Time Domain Workshop (30 Sep - 2 Oct, 2024) or at the JA2 face-to-face meeting in Edinburgh (15/16 October 2024). The face to face meetings played a key role in wrapping up the final details of some of the integrations, such as the OAuth2 based connection from TOM Toolkit to a third-party backend. After the Marseille meeting the integration of the automated observing request submission and data retrieval between BlackholeTOM and the REM telescope was finalised. The task will meet all its aims, and the JA2.2 team members agreed that the collaboration and interaction with the colleagues from other infrastructures and institutions, radio and optical, was very valuable and should continue beyond ORP.

JA4 radio Training: The ORP JA4 training team met online on 05/12/2024 to discuss the status of the radio training activities performed since the summer: the ERIS2024 school and 12 IRAM Millimetre Interferometry School. Both were very successful and participants have left positive feedback.

The final schools organised by ORP will be a proposal writing school and a NEON school towards the end of the project.

H. Korhonen and R. Pizzo presented the efforts and achievements of the JA4 training team to the ORP consortium at the consortium meeting in Marseille on 5-7 November 2024. The team's performance was explicitly praised.

There will be a final JA4 meeting at the end of February.

The second ORP synergy school inspires students to use multi-messenger observations

ORP School on Multi-messenger Astrophysics took place in Durham University in Northern England on **02 - 06 September 2024**. In total 23 students from ten countries – ranging from Lithuania to Kenya and from UK to Egypt – participated in this second ORP synergy school.

Each of the school days was dedicated to a different waveband or messenger: optical, radio, high energy gamma-rays, and neutrinos. Each day was divided into morning lectures and hands-on exercises in the afternoons. During the final day we had lectures on X-ray astronomy and gravitational wave astrophysics.

We had a really exciting week in Durham learning about multi-messenger astrophysics and making new friends.



ORP Consortium meeting - November 2024

The last [meeting of the ORP Consortium](#) took place at the 'Palais du Pharo' in Marseille (France) from **5 to 7 November 2024** (remote participation was organised).

Its purpose was to follow the current and future activities of the ORP until February 2025, but also to have an overall view of what has been achieved during the project as a whole.

The programme for the **two-days meeting** was as follows:

The **first day (which started at 2pm)** was devoted to defining the scope of the meeting and presenting an overview of the past year. There was a JA1 and JA2 session with feedback from the task leaders.

The **second day** began with three presentations on transnational access in the radio and optical fields, and on feedback from the Multi Facility Call. These presentations were followed by the JA3 session.

A strategic discussion on the future took place in the early afternoon, open to all, followed by the opening of the Executive Committee meeting.

A social dinner was held in the evening.

The third day started with the Board meeting, followed by a review of all the activities of the other working groups. The Consortium meeting ended with a note from the coordinator followed by lunch.

You can find the speakers' presentations [here](#). The minutes are currently being approved by the speakers and will be available on redmine in early January.

We'd like to sincerely thank you for taking part- it was really important for us to be able to get together one last time - and in sunny Marseille!

Cheese ! 🧀





2024 NEON School enjoys the Greek hospitality

2024 NEON Observing School took place in Greece at the facilities of the National Observatory of Athens on 14-25 October. The 16 students participating in the school came from 10 different countries – ranging from the United Kingdom to Kazakhstan, and from Denmark to Kenya.

The school started in Athens with lectures on basics and then moved to Kryoneri and Helmos Observatories for hands-on observations using the 1.2m and 2.3m telescopes. The students worked with four experienced tutors during the school carrying out observing projects in various topics, including active galactic nuclei, planetary nebulae, stellar astrophysics, and supernovae. The second week of the school was spent in the town of Kalavryta, close to the Helmos Observatory, working on the obtained data. The school ended with group presentations on the observational projects. As usual, it was amazing to see what the students had accomplished during the 12-day school.

We had 12 great days in Greece enjoying the very friendly and collaborative atmosphere, excellent local food, and the warm hospitality of our local hosts.



Workshop Horizons for Optical Long Baseline Interferometry

Following the ESO announcement "*Expanding Horizons: Transforming Astronomy in the 2040s*", which will identify its next flagship facility, we will organise a workshop. Its goal is to explore future breakthroughs enabled by very high angular resolution in the optical and infrared. The event commemorates 40 years of the ESO Interferometry Working Group's creation and their VLTI Interim Report's visionary contributions.

See more [here](#).



Upcoming ORP-related Activities & Events

Please circulate the next coming schools/training to all those who may be interested :

February 2025:

- ★ 2-14 February 2025 – Calar Alto Observatory/ES – [2025 NEON Observing School](#)
- ★ 10 February - 17 March (on four Mondays) - [2025 ORP Proposal Writing School](#) :
deadline for applications was **Friday December 13**

Thank you for your attention!



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