



NEWSLETTER

OPTICON-
RADIONET PILOT



NEWSLETTER #9

Latest updates for the ORP Consortium

Dear ORP Consortium members,

Here we are, the mid-term review of ORP organised by the European Commission took place in mid-October and everything went perfectly well. This is the completion of a very important process that mobilised us for several months. I would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank Izabela and Gudrun for all the work they have done to make this review a success.

But we still have a lot of work ahead of us since we now have to think about the post-ORP period and the project that we want to pursue altogether. The next Consortium Meeting at the end of November will certainly be the occasion to discuss this. This is a good opportunity for me to remind you of the importance of participating. We thus hope to see many of you there, which will be the occasion for some to discover SKAO in Jodrell Bank.

Wishing you all a very good reading of this Newsletter,
Stéphane Basa, on behalf of the EMT

Current ORP TNA Opportunities Open

ORP Transnational Access opportunities presently open:

- [Effelsberg](#)
- [European ARC Network](#)

ORP Mid-Term Review on 14 October 2022

The ORP project went through its [Mid-Term Review](#) on 14 October 2022 in Milano (Italy), an official review performed by the European Commission. The EC was represented by Sven De Rijcke, referee, and Mina Koleva, the ORP Project Officer.

The mid-term review was an opportunity to take a look at the project from the point of view of the various people involved. Each of them explained their activities and missions on ORP, their assessment for the first period and their perspectives for the next. The discussion was very constructive and helped to prepare the Consortium Meeting that will take place in Manchester (UK) on 29-30 November.



ORP Consortium Meeting on 29-30 November 2022

The ORP Consortium Meeting will take place on 29-30 November 2022 at SKAO in Jodrell Bank, UK, hosted by the University of Manchester. 65 participants registered so far. This will be the first time most ORP members will meet in person and the management team is looking forward to it. On the [event page](#) you could find all relevant information.

Subscribe to the ORP External Newsletter

In Autumn 2022, we will start the publication of an ORP newsletter aimed 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!

ERIS 2022



Over 70 students from all over the world participated in the 9th European Radio Interferometry School ([ERIS 2022](#)), funded by the ORP Project and hosted by JIVE and ASTRON in Dwingeloo (the Netherlands) between 19 - 23 September 2022.

Read more information [here](#).

2022 NEON Observing School



Twenty students from 10 countries participated in the 2022 NEON Observing School, funded by the ORP Project at the Observatoire de Haute-Provence in Southern France on 2-14 October 2022.

Read more information [here](#).

ALMA Science Archive School



The ALMA Science Archive School - sponsored by the ORP project and organised by the European ALMA Regional Centre Network - was held on 5-7 October 2022 at the CNR Research Campus in Bologna, Italy. The school aimed to present an overview of the ALMA Science Archive, of the most advanced tools to exploit the archive content for science, and a discussion of possible tricks to address mining issues. Read more information [here](#).

Workshop Wavefront sensing in the VLT/ELT era VII



The 7th Wavefront Sensing workshop - funded by the ORP Project - was held in Porto, Portugal, on 19-21 October 2022 with the participation of over 100 astronomers. The in-person meeting counted with the participation of 68 researchers mostly from Europe but also from North America and Australia. Remote connection was provided to additional 44 unique participants.

Read more information [here](#).

Official Inauguration of NOEMA



On 30 September 2022, NOEMA was officially inaugurated.

Eight years after its first antenna was inaugurated in 2014, the major astronomical project is now complete: NOEMA is now the new major facility for radio astronomy in Europe.

Read more information [here](#).



On 1-2 October, Stéphane Basa and Chloé Lambert, ORP coordinators, participated in the inauguration of NOEMA in Super Dévoluy, France. For the occasion, the "Astronomy Village" event was organised and attracted more than 1000 people over the weekend. Stéphane and Chloé had a stand to promote ORP to the general public.

Sharing AHEAD 2022

The [H2020 AHEAD2020 project](#) organised the [SHARING AHEAD 2022 - Public Communication of astrophysics around Europe Workshop](#) on 3-4 November 2022 to bring together leading scientists and science communicators from the EU and around the world to present the latest cutting-edge public outreach activities in astronomy and space science. The ORP project was invited to present its communication actions and the ORP Communications Officer Jorge Rivero González represented the project.

ORP Activities

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

JA2.2a Time-Domain Multi-Facility & Multi-Frequency access to Research Infrastructures - Monthly update meeting | 29 September 2022 - The subtasks brought each other up to date. For the EVN TOM Toolkit plugin, the contact with the relevant Torún staff was established. Work

progressed on the backend of the EVN TOM Toolkit plugin: the scheduling software was integrated. They get the automatically generated VEX file uploaded to the telescope where an operator might decide to execute it or not.

For details on the AEON protocol contact has been set up. We got some pointers to the Github and the documentation from AEON. To make use of that, resources from somebody else are needed, because the software that runs at the telescope that connects to the network is not “in our hands” and needs to be picked up by people at the telescopes.

BHTOM2 is on the horizon. It was decided to leave the current BHTOM code and restart the software development fresh: the good working parts of the current BHTOM will be reused whilst benefiting from the improvements of the new system. Triggering observations at a telescope was one of the new features highly of interest to this work package: BHTOM can then send AEON requests. For that to happen a special plugin must be written.

Two prior instances of such a plugin exist - one for the Liverpool telescope and one for the Geminis. The Liverpool telescope plugin was chosen to be used as an illustrative example to base further work on.

JA2 Seamless performance (Core Group) | 30 September 2022 and 4 November 2022 - JA2 met twice during this time. In the September meeting, the sub tasks brought each other up to date and the JA2 members prepared for the MTR in October 2022. In the November meeting the group prepared for the consortium meeting at the end of November 2022 and assessing if JA2 requires any amendment to the grant agreement.

Optical Common Time Allocation Committee Meeting | 20-21 October 2022 - The ORP Optical Common Time Allocation Committee met on 20-21 October at the UK Astronomy Technology Centre in Edinburgh, UK. Results of the 2023A Optical Telescope Call will be circulated soon.

Upcoming ORP-related Activities & Events

- [11th IRAM Interferometry School](#) | 21-25 November 2022, Grenoble, France
- [ORP Consortium Meeting](#) | 29-30 November 2022, Jodrell Bank, United Kingdom
- [JA4 Radio Training meeting](#) | 7 December 2022, ZOOM
- **JA3.4 Workshop with imaging experts from VLTi and millimetre communities** | 9-11 January 2023, Garching, Germany



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