

Minutes of the WSO/UV Meeting

Date: 22 June 2004

Location: Russia Federal Space Agency, Moscow

Attending : Appendix A

Agenda: Appendix B

Presentations : <http://wso.vilspa.esa.es/> Section: /Meetings/# 8

The Meeting was held by initiative of Federal Space Agency of Russia. Main goals of the Meeting were declared as follows:

- To clarify to the participants the motivation and plans of Federal Space Agency and Russian Academy of Sciences to proceed with the WSO/UV project.
- To clarify with the possible interested parties the details of the implementation plans.
- To confirm, at Agency level, the possible degree of interest in the WSO/UV Project, as expressed by the members of the WSO/UV Implementation Committee (WIC), both multi-lateral and bi-lateral.
- To clarify the status and schedule of the Project implementation.
- To further develop practical implementation plans.
- To evaluate external funding possibilities associated with the WSO concept.
- To agree on a letter of intent (letter of interest) and decide on the exchange of these.

Representatives of all participating countries exchanged statements concerning these items.

Russia

Russian Federal Space Agency confirms its readiness to lead the WSO/UV Project. Main statements are presented in the speech of Mr. G.M.Polishchuk (see Appendix C)

ESA

Attended as observer and stressed the point that any proposal from the scientific community should follow the usual procedure in ESA, i.e. submitting their proposal to the Astronomy Working Group (AWG) and Science Program Committee (SPC). The ESA priorities are set primarily by the European Scientific Community. While the AWG discussed WSO/UV, no decisions were taken.

China

China National Space Administration (CNSA) and Chinese Academy of Sciences both confirm their strong interest in participation in the WSO/UV Project. Main proposals are presented in the speech of Mr. Wu Weiren, Director of Science of CNSA (see Appendix D)

Germany

After a long period (more than 10 years) of supporting and financing a German contribution (HIRDES) for the WSO/UV Project by the German Space Agency (DLR), which ended with a Phase A Study of the spectrograph in 2001, DLR does not see a chance to continue the financing of the HIRDES at the moment.

The Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Tuebingen initiated discussions to explore the feasibility of debt conversion method as a way of financing the project in Germany. This process will continue during the next months.

(Norbert Kappelmann on behalf of the German Space Agency (DLR))

South Africa

South Africa has taken note of the proposed national contribution to WSO/UV. In particular, the proposed participation by South Africa by providing in a science operation center, participating in the ground segment of WSO/UV and with some possible contribution to instrument and spacecraft subsystems are noted. We take this opportunity to confirm interest in participation in the WSO/UV project at an appropriate level. SA would appreciate being kept informed on future developments, study activities, and participation possibilities. This will allow South Africa to evaluate in a timely manner, the practical aspects of South Africa participation in WSO/UV (A.Joubert on behalf of Dr. R. Adam – Director General, Ministry of Science and Technology of SA, and Dr. P. Martinez – South African Astronomical Observatory).

Israel

The Israel space agency continues to show interest in the WSO/UV project and asks to be kept informed of its progress. The considerations of a possible significant Israel participation in WSO/UV requires further clarification and would be discussed at the proper time. (N.Brosch on behalf of Israel Space Agency)

Mexico

In Mexico there is no space agency. There were two statements of Mexican participants:

The Institute of Astronomy of UNAM as one of the major and leading astronomical institutions of Mexico is very interested in participation in this project. There is a strong community of individual researchers who interested in UV astronomy and has an ample experience with IAU, HST, FUSE data.

At the moment IA UNAM declares its commitment to participate in the WSO/UV project at the Science Data Center level. However understanding the importance of setting a Ground Station on the American continent for continuous and efficient link with the orbital observatory we are exploring possibilities of upgrading our participation to a higher level. For that reason we have preliminary agreement with another Mexican institution (CICESE), which is a conglomerate of a few research units (telecommunications department among them), to join efforts for creation and participation in the WSO/UV as a data reception and procession center. The representative of CICESE is participating in this meeting, studying the prospects of their participation.

(Gagik Tovmassian on behalf of the Institute of Astronomy, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico/ Dr. Jose Franco, director)

CISESE (Centro de Investigacion Cientifica y de Educacion Superior de Ensenada) would like to participate in the development of telecommunication hardware and software for the WSO/UV Earth Station, along with the other institutions that may be already working in that area. (Dr.R. C. Calvan on behalf Director General of the CISESE Dr.F. J.Mendieta)

Italy

ASI (Italian Space Agency) is going through a decision-making process with regards to further scientific cooperation projects. For this reason decision about projects to be pursued are delayed till the end of this process. The process should be completed by the end of September with a decision to be reached by the end of 2004.

ASI is aware that at least 57 Italian astrophysicists and technological companies are extremely interested in the development and exploitation of the WSO/UV telescope. There is a strong political attention from Italian government in projects with Russia.

As a consequence ASI suggests that WSO/UV should be put on the (ASI/FSA) table for bilateral projects.

(Isabella Pagano on behalf of the Italian Space Agency (ASI))

Spain

The WSO/UV team in Spain is supported by the Spanish Space Plan (see attached letter from the manager of the Space Plan). The companies related with the ground segment are already developing some of the relevant work packages.

Ukraine

Ukraine confirms its interest in participation in the WSO/UV Project (see Appendix E). (Nikolaj V. Steshenko on behalf of the Ukrainian Space Agency).

For China
Wu Weiren



For ESA
Alain Fournier-Sicre



For Germany
Norbert Kappelmann



For Israel
Noah Brosch



For Italy
Isabella Pagano



For Mexico
Gagik Tovmassian



For Russia
G.M. Polishchuk



For South Africa
Anthea Joubert



For Spain
Ana Ines Gomez de Castro



For Ukraine
Nikolaj V. Steshenko



