

Dear A1 commission member,

Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

I deeply hope that the Covid-19 does not affect significantly your personal life and your scientific activities.

Please find below important news concerning our commission.

1. GAIA news (DR3)
2. IAU 2021 General Assembly information
3. IAU 2021 GA Astrometry focus meeting

Best Regards,

Jean Souchay

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## **1. Gaia news (DR3)**

### Gaia update

On July 29 a manoeuvre was carried out to bring Gaia back to the nominal scanning law. This means that the precession direction of the spin axis has been reversed and this closes the year of reverse precession scanning which started on July 16 last year. I recall that this reverse precession period was introduced to help in breaking a specific degeneracy in the astrometric solution.

Overall Gaia has operated without any significant problems.

The mission extension case for the period 2023-2025 was presented to ESA's advisory bodies in May and was very well received. The indicative approval of this extension and the definitive approval of the extension for 2021-2022 are still pending. The decisions are expected during the ESA SPC meeting in November this year. The end-of-mission (dictated by the running out of the fuel for the micro-propulsion system) is estimated to be December 2024.

### DPAC update / DR3

The date for the next release, Gaia EDR3, was announced. The release will be made public on December 3 2020 at 1200 CET.

You can find information on this release on the following pages:

<https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/gaia/earlydr3>

<https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/gaia/early-data-release-3>

The contents of the second page will be updated as we approach the release date.

The data processing for Gaia DR3 is ongoing, which includes the non-single stars pipeline, the solar system objects, QSO host and galaxy morphological characterization, and astrophysical parameters determination, and variable source classification and characterization. The radial velocity processing is finished and the results are undergoing extensive validation at the moment.

Gaia DR3 will contain the above data products, but the schedule is still affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The release is expected to take place during the first half of 2022.

*Transmitted by A.Brown*

## **2. IAU General Assembly 2021 information**

As given the covid-19 evolution, for the moment final decisions have not been determined for the GA2021 but things continue in a hybrid context and we will be fixed as it approaches. For the moment you can find information on the GA2021 website:

<https://www.iauga2021.org/>

Registration and abstract submission as well as grant applications have all been pushed to January.

*Transmitted by M. Smith Spanier*

## **3. IAU GA 2021 Astrometry focus meeting**

The organization for the focus meeting at the next IAU GA "Astrometry for 21st Century Astronomy" is underway. A website with more information can be found here:

<http://www.busan2021fm7.org/>

*Transmitted by A. Brown*