Dear A1 Commission member, July 22nd, 2021

Dear all,

This is the last Newsletter I send as President of commission A1. I take this opportunity to thank all the people who have brought their contribution to the commission during this triennial period (2018-2021) despite the bad situation linked to the covid-19 everywhere. I want also to congratulate the new members of the organizing committee, and to thank those leaving it for their past participation.

- A1 Commission Organizing Committee for 2021-2024 : starting from now !
- Business meeting of IAU commission A1 postponed to August 2022 G.A.
- ICRF3 publication
- Gaia DR3 status
- GaiaNIR and Voyage2050

Best Regards

Jean Souchay

- **A1 COMMISSION ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR 2021-2024: STARTING FROM NOW !**

Starting from now Chris Jacobs is the new president of the A1 Commission. In the following I remind you the members of the new commission.

President: Christopher S. Jacobs (United States)

Vice-President : Aletha de Witt (South Africa)

Other members :

Dana Ioana Casetti (United States)
Patrick Charlot (France)
Laurent Eyer (Switzerland)
Lennart Lindegren (Sweden)
Rene Alejandro Mendez Bussard (Chile)
Jennifer Lynn Bartlett (United States)
François Mignard (France)

- **BUSINESS MEETING OF IAU COM. A1 POSTPONED TO AUGUST 2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT BUSAN**

A virtual business meeting of the A1 commission was initially scheduled, in August 2021, as this was mentioned in the previous Newsletter15. Finally after discussion with the IAU secretary it was decided that Commissions business meetings are postponed together with the General Assembly scheduled in August 2022 at Busan (Corea)

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- **ICRF3 PUBLICATION**

An important step for our commission was the adoption by the IAU in 2018 at its 30th General Assembly at Vienna of the third realization of the International Celestial Reference frame by Very Long Baseline Interferometry(ICRF3). The ICRF3 contains at all 4588 sources, with three-frequency positions available for 600 of these. All details in the paper by Charlot et al. (2020), A&A 644,A159(2020).

- **Gaia DR3 STATUS**

The Gaia spacecraft and instruments are in good health, with smooth spacecraft operations over the past year. The end of Gaia's cold gas supply is predicted to be reached in the first half of 2025, which will be the end of the mission. The Gaia extended mission is formally approved to the end of 2022, with preliminary approval for the period 2023-2025. The decision on formal approval for this last period will be taken in the middle of next year.

The data processing for Gaia DR3 has been completed and the DPAC has started on the long process of validating and documenting the release, which is planned for the first half of 2022. Gaia DR3 will contain many new data products, among which a first catalogue of binary stars, a large catalogue of solar system objects, including asteroid reflectance spectra, a much expanded sample of stellar radial velocities, and a very large number of sources which have been astrophysically characterized from stars to variables to galaxies and QSOs. An extensive preview of Gaia DR3 was provided during the EAS 2021meeting. The presentation slides can be found here:

http://great.ast.cam.ac.uk/Greatwiki/GreatMeet-PM14

Transmitted by A. Brown

- **GaiaNIR AND VOYAGE2050**

The Voyage 2050 long term planning exercise by ESA has recently reached a milestone with the release of the report from the Senior Committee. The news item with the summary is here:

https://www.esa.int/Science_Exploration/Space_Science/Voyage_2050_sets_sail_ESA_chooses_future_science_mission_themes

and the report from the Senior Committee is here:

https://cosmos.esa.int/documents/1866264/1866292/Voyage2050-Senior Committee-report-public.pdf/e2b2631e-5348-5d2d-60c1-437225981b6b?t=1623427287109

You will see that GaiaNIR features very prominently among both the recommendations for L-class and M-class missions. There is still a long road ahead to the realization of GaiaNIR but a major first step has been taken and congratulations to David Hobbs for pushing the GaiaNIR project very successfully so far!

Transmitted by A. Brown