

Astrophysical Virtual Observatory

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About AVO

The Astrophysical Virtual Observatory Project (AVO) is conducting a research and demonstration programme on the scientific requirements and technologies necessary to build a VO for European astronomy. The AVO has been jointly funded by the European Commission (under FP5 - Fifth Framework Programme) with six European organizations participating in a three year Phase-A work programme, valued at 5 million Euro.

Partners

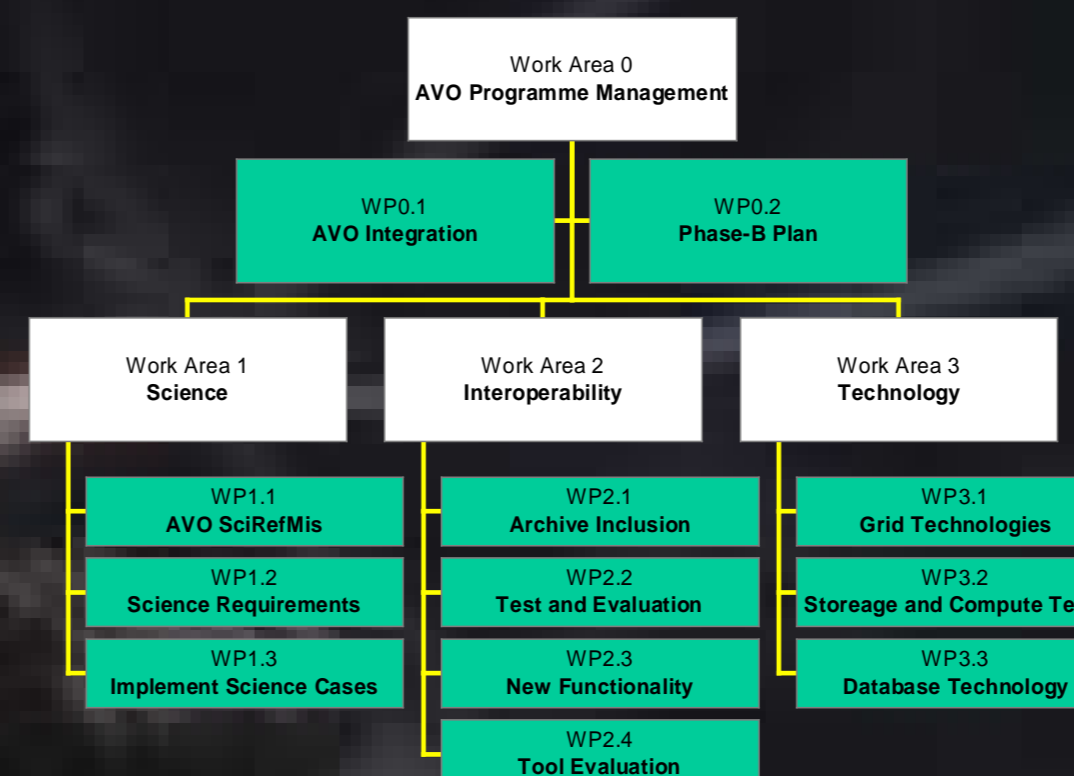
The partner organizations are:

- the European Southern Observatory (ESO) in Munich, Germany,
- the European Space Agency (ESA),
- AstroGrid (funded by PPARC as part of the UK's E-Science programme),
- the CNRS-supported Centre de Données Astronomiques de Strasbourg (CDS), the University Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg, France,
- the CNRS-supported TERAPIX astronomical data centre at the Institut d'Astrophysique in Paris, France,
- and the Jodrell Bank Observatory of the Victoria University of Manchester, United Kingdom.

Goals

As reflected by the project structure the Phase A program focuses its efforts on:

- a detailed description of the science requirements for the AVO,
- data and archive interoperability and the necessary
- GRID and database technologies needed for a full AVO implementation.

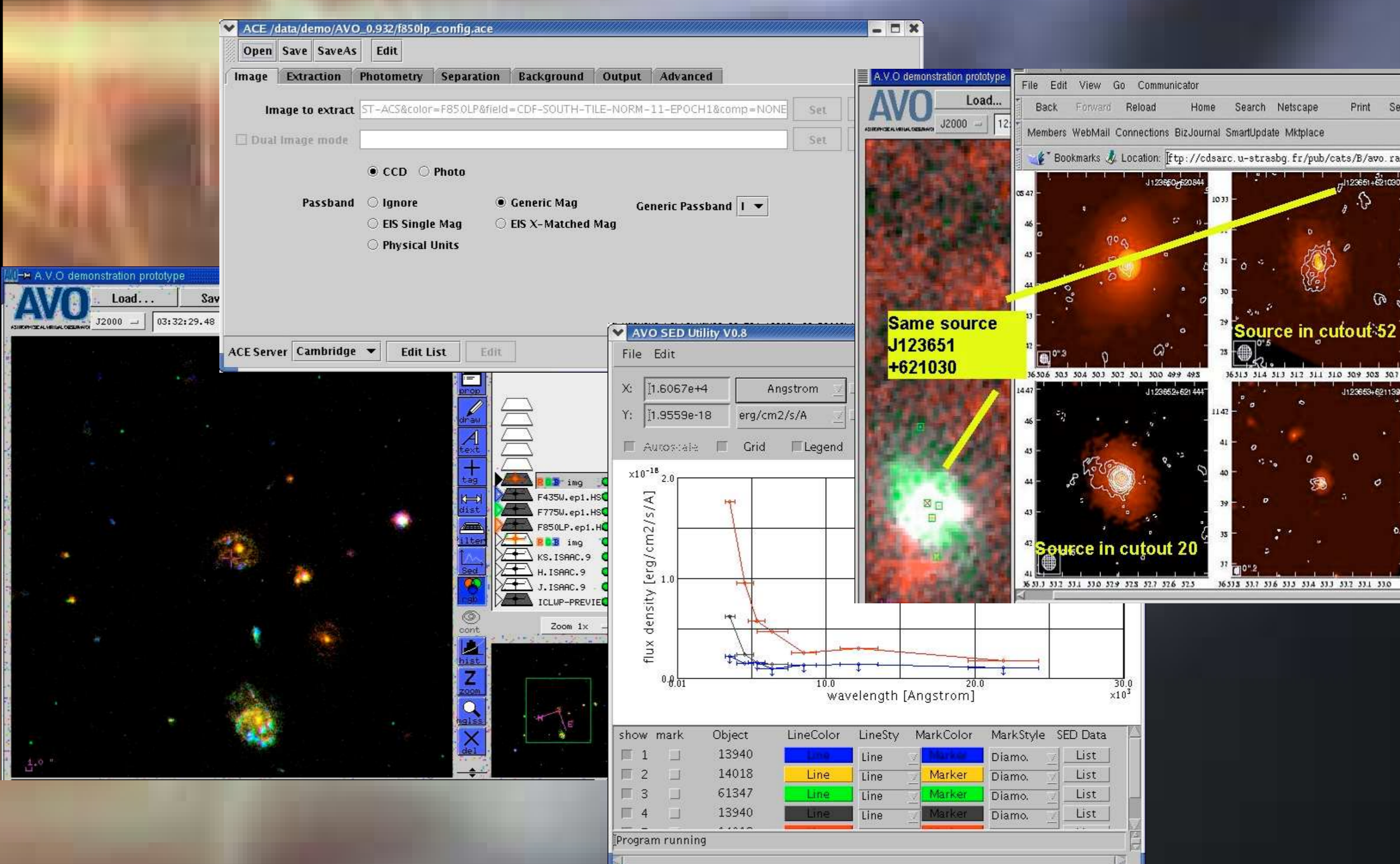


Scientific Scenarios

The AVO prototype is already used to explore various scenarios, like

- galaxy formation in high redshift environment
- identification of super nova candidates
- radio observations of HDF-N and HFF

The snapshots show the Aladin type interface with data from Hubble Deep Field North (HDF-N) and Chandra Deep Field South (CDF-S), as well as plugins to plot the spectral energy distribution and to extract source lists from images. The latter is a web service called Astronomy Catalogue Extractor. Please visit us at the IVOA booth for a live demo.



Future

The AVO partners will join with all astronomical data centres in Europe to put forward an EC FP6 (Sixth Framework Programme) proposal to make a European VO fully operational by the end of 2008.

www.euro-vo.org

