

Present:

Francisco Carrera, Luis Colina, Paolo Giommi, Andrew Jaffe (agenda point 4 by phone), Günther Hasinger, Rob Kennicutt, Florian Kerber, Reynier Peletier, Timo Prusti, Evelyne Roueff, Alberto Salama, Stephen Smartt, Paolo Padovani, Mark Allen, Nic Walton, Matteo Guainazzi

1. The chair opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.
2. The VO scientists presented the progress and status of VO TECH, VO DCA and VO FC respectively. In the discussion it was agreed that SAC should aid in the definition of 'must-have-tools' (AI SAC 2-1). The DCA welcomed SAC participation in its work. SAC accepted the invitation and requested DCA to formulate specific needs where SAC contribution would be needed. Based on these needs SAC can then act on a case by case basis. The first such need is the review of the questionnaire for the data centre census (AI SAC 2-2). The EURO VO web-pages are public, but would still benefit from a review by SAC (AI SAC 2-3). Overall SAC expressed their satisfaction of the progress made.
3. The test group presented their findings of the VO tools. The specific comments have been passed directly to the VO scientists or developers of the tools. SAC endorsed two recommendations from the test group. 1) The tools provided under the umbrella of EURO VO have differing levels of maturity. This maturity should be indicated upfront to the (potential) users. The EURO VO project should address this matter. 2) It is not clear to the users how to get help in use of tools. The EURO VO project should clearly indicate when questions/comments should be passed through helpdesk and when the developers of individual tools should or could be approached directly. For further testing there were several SAC members indicating not only their willingness to test, but rather to use the facilities for science: Stephen Smartt with his group, Reynier Peletier with students and Alberto Salama expressed their explicit plans to use the tools. The testers are specifically asked to pay attention to the recipes provided for the VO tools in order to assess their correctness and usefulness.
4. The VO scientists presented the future look into their plans to develop their part of EURO VO. In the future plans the biggest uncertainty is the funding of the VO FC. The plan is to submit a proposal for the FP7 call. SAC considers the VO FC an essential part of the EURO VO and therefore wants to make a resolution which may be used in support for the funding application (Resolution SAC 2-1). This topic of EURO VO goals links to the topic of EURO VO SAC goals which was postponed to the next meeting due to the fact that none of the goals group members could be physically present in the meeting.
5. The EURO VO exec supports the idea of organising a call for proposals to use the EURO VO facilities. SAC re-iterates their willingness to help evaluating the scientific value of the proposals and takes note of the fact that the call may be limited to technical tools considered mature enough for the call. Also SAC took note of the fact that no funding for the successful proposers could be provided. SAC also noted that to the eventual call there may be proposals from the SAC members. This was not considered to be a problem and possible SAC proposers would simply not participate to the proposal evaluation. The technical boundary conditions for the call are left to be determined by the EURO VO project.
6. In the concluding discussion the topic of VO PR was raised. SAC urges its members to give in their local environment a presentation of EURO VO facilities. The scope of such presentation should be tuned to match the speakers speciality and anticipated interest of the audience.
7. The next meeting date and place will be agreed separately.

Resolution

Resolution SAC 2-1: EURO VO Science Advisory Committee stresses the importance of the Facility Centre helping the European astronomical community to use the VO infrastructure made available by the EURO VO project.

Action items

AI SAC 2-1: Send to VO scientists (cc SAC chair) a list of 'must-have-tools' which need to be available in EURO VO. Due 31 Mar 2007

AI SAC 2-2: Review the questionnaire for the data centre census. Due 2 weeks after circulation by DCS

AI SAC 2-3: Every SAC member should spend a minimum of two hours exploring the public EURO VO web-pages and send comments to the VO FC scientists. Due 31 Mar 2007