

Further EURO-VO Facility Centre News

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VO School at ESO Mar. 30 - Apr. 2

Virtual Observatory School
March 30 - April 2, 2009
European Southern Observatory
Garching bei München, Germany

first announcement sent this week

The EURO-VO project, in the framework of the EURO-VO Astronomical Infrastructure for Data Access (AIDA), is organising an international School at ESO, Garching bei München, Germany.

The Virtual Observatory (VO) is opening up new ways of exploiting the huge amount of data provided by the ever-growing number of ground-based and space facilities and also computer simulations. The goals of the School are to expose European astronomers to the variety of VO tools and services available today so that they can use them efficiently for their own research.

To achieve these goals, VO experts will lecture and tutor the participants on the usage of such tools. Real life examples of scientific applications will be given, some of them selected from the science cases that participants will be asked to submit at the time of registration. A large fraction of the time will be dedicated to hands-on exercises, which will allow participants to become fully familiar with the VO capabilities.

Tools providing the following functionalities will be presented:

- Data discovery and data mining
- Catalogue and table handling
- Image and spectra handling
- Cross-correlations

In order to ensure the right level of interaction, participation will be restricted to a limited number of participants. Preference will be given to PhD students and post-docs.

Deadline for registration is February 15, 2009.

For more details, visit the workshop's web page: <http://www.euro-vo.org/aidahandson2009/>



VO School at ESO Mar. 30 - Apr. 2

- EURO-VO AIDA deliverable
- SAC involvement:
 - ✓ any suggestions on format from the SAC?
 - ✓ any volunteers to be on the SOC (which at present includes eight EURO-VO astronomers)?

- Selection of projects from the next Announcement of Opportunity for the Research Initiative (due ~ July 2009)
- Help with scientific workshops:
 - On which topic should the next “community feedback” workshops be [due ~ Nov. 2009 at CDS]? Suggestions from last meeting included Images, Time Series, Surveys

- ASTRONET Infrastructure Roadmap report was released on Nov. 25 in Paris
- The 176-page book is available at <http://www.astronet-eu.org/-Infrastructure-Roadmap->
- Important for the future of the VO in Europe

- Review of Virtual Observatory Systems Department activities carried out on March 5, 2008 by a mostly external board, which included Kerber (Chair) and Prusti:
 - ✓ very positive
 - ✓ emphasis on FC activities, less on software development but support for VirGO
 - Reorganization at ESO effective June 1, 2008:
 - ✓ *new* Data Products Department, in charge of quality control and generation of processed data products at all levels
 - ✓ *new* Archive Department, in charge of archive operations, interfaces, and database content management
 - ✓ Virtual Observatory is now a Project Office to: 1. provide VO input to ESO in general and to the Archive and Data Products Departments in particular; 2. coordinate ESO's involvement in the VO, namely in the EURO-VO project and the IVOA
- ⇒ VO not “special” and “time-limited” anymore; VO features prominently in the ESO “Forward look 2010 - 2012” (Mid-range plan)