

Commission Report on GASS Commission Business Meetings

Commission J

prepared by Willem Baan (Chairperson 2014–2017)

1. Results of Election of Vice Chair

Dr. Richard Bradley (NRAO, USA) was elected as Vice Chair for the coming cycle.

2. Results of Election of Early Career Representative

The votes for the two ERC candidates showed a minimal difference. Considering that in the future there should be two ERC members on a two times three-year rotation, Commission J decided to retain both candidates. Dr. Stefan Wijnholds (ASTRON, NL) was appointed for a six-year term, and Dr. Andrew Siemion (UC Berkeley, USA) was appointed for a three-year term (with travel support as available).

3. Appointment of Associate Editor for Radio Science Bulletin

Dr. Jaap Baars (Germany) will remain Associate Editor of the RSB for Commission J. He will be supported in this activity by the ECRs.

4. Updates/Status of Working Groups

A proposal was made by Kenneth Kellermann and Richard Schilizzi to establish a Commission J Working Group on the “History of Radio Astronomy.” While this is a clear Commission J subject, this working group will be jointly organized with the IAU Working Group on Historical Astronomy. An organizational meeting will be planned during the IAU GA in 2015.

An inter-Commission Working Group with Commissions E, F, G, H, and J on “Characterization and Mitigation of Radio Interference” was proposed by Willem Baan, and this has been agreed upon by the other Commissions. An inter-Commission working group would bundle the individual activities of the various Commissions by means of regular workshops at the URSI meetings. This allows for learning from the experience of others, and for solving interference problems together. Plans are being made to have the first of such workshops during the AT-RASC.

5. Updates to Terms of Reference of Commission

No changes were made in the TOR of Commission J.

6. Meetings Proposed to be Supported in the Coming Triennium

No proposals were discussed for the support of meetings.

7. Report/Comments on the Scientific Program of the Commission for the Current GASS

Part of the attractiveness of URSI lies with the (potential of) cross-fertilization between Commissions. It is therefore regrettable that there were so few inter-Commission sessions at this URSI GASS. Commission J should strive to have more coordination between Commissions (inter-Commission sessions).

There should be more flexibility in assigning timeslots during some sessions, in particular for the Commission J standard sessions on “Observatory Reports” and “Latest Results.”

8. Proposed Sessions for the Next GASS

- A session on mm/sub-mm VLBI
- A session on radar reflections from solar system bodies
- A session on real-time processing systems, with Commission C
- A session on characterization of the ionosphere, with Commission G
- An URSI-wide session on data (archiving/accessibility) (together with the CODATA initiative or big ICT companies?)

9. Proposed Sessions for the AT-RASC

Some of the above proposals will be implemented during AT-RASC.

10. Other Business

None.