

18th August, 2021

Dear Colleagues in Commission A2,

with this Newsletter we provide some information about the activities of our Commission related to the upcoming IAU XXXI General Assembly Business Sessions, to be held virtually on Monday 23 and Thursday 26 August 2021 (<https://www.iau.org/news/announcements/detail/ann21038/>).

As you know, the IAU XXXI General Assembly has been postponed to August 2022 due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, IAU will now hold its Business Sessions, marking the end of the triennium. Also, with the end of these sessions, the new officers will assume their duties. The agenda of the Business Sessions can be accessed under this link: https://www.iau.org/science/meetings/general_assemblies/ga2021/. IAU members can follow the sessions in a YouTube livestream and participate via a Slack Channel.

(1) Commission proposals for IAU resolutions:

As we informed in our [Newsletter, 10th February, 2021](#), our Commission proposed two Resolutions. Both were approved by the IAU Resolutions Committee and will be presented for voting:

- **Resolution B1** in support of the protection of geodetic radio astronomy against radio frequency interference (jointly with Commission A1, Astrometry)
(<https://www.iau.org/static/archives/announcements/pdf/ann21040a.pdf>)
- **Resolution B2** on the improvement of the Earth's rotation theories and models
(<https://www.iau.org/static/archives/announcements/pdf/ann21040b.pdf>)

There are two additional resolutions: **Resolution B3** on the Gaia Celestial Reference Frame, of special interest for many members of our Commission, and **Resolution B4** on the use of a standard photometric system in ultraviolet (UV) astronomy. Information on the resolutions can be found on this website: <https://www.iau.org/news/announcements/detail/ann21040/>

Individual and Junior Members will have the opportunity to vote on the resolutions electronically after they have been presented at the Business Sessions. The voting will open on 26 August 2021 and close on 10 September. All IAU members have the opportunity to comment on the Resolutions through a Slack Channel (<https://www.iau.org/ga2021/>).

(2) Elections of the Commission:

Elections of IAU Divisions and Commissions took place in the last months. The results have been published on the IAU website. The composition of the new Commission A2 Organizing Committee (2021-2024) can be found here:

<https://www.iau.org/news/announcements/detail/ann21041/#a2>

With a voter turnout of 60% (66 votes), our Commission had the second-highest voter turnout of all Commissions. We thank you very much for your participation!



Commission A2 Rotation of the Earth International Astronomical Union

We are pleased to welcome the three new members of the Commission Organizing Committee (OC), Laura I. Fernandez (Argentina), David A. Salstein (United States), and Jean Souchay (France). They will provide the new OC together with the second-term members Hadia Selim, Jolanta Nastula, and Shuanggen Jin. The next term Commission President will be Zinovy Malkin, and Alberto Escapa has been elected Vice President. We wish the new OC every success in leading Commission A2 through the next triennium!

At the same time we sincerely thank the outgoing OC member Jose M. Ferrandiz, our Advisor and Past President Richard Gross as well as the representatives of IAG (Robert Heinkelmann), IVS (Oleg Titov) and IERS (Daniela Thaller) for their great commitment to Commission A2 over the past three years. We, the president and secretary of Commission A2, thank all colleagues within the Commission for your trust and for your support during the last years!

A summary of the Commission's activities during 2018-2021 can be found in our Triennial Report: https://www.iau.org/static/science/scientific_bodies/commissions/a2/commission-a2-triennial-report-2018-2021.pdf

Any feedback about the above-mentioned points, or other announcements of interest to our Commission are very welcome (alberto.escapa@ua.es).

Sincerely,

Florian Seitz
President

Alberto Escapa
Secretary