

=====
Astro Space Center
RadioAstron Newsletter
Number 17
October 26, 2012
=====

The process to select projects for the open RadioAstron observing time within the AO-1 period (July 2013 - June 2014) has started

From the middle of 2013 RadioAstron will move to the open sky phase of its science operations. Any scientist in the world can apply for the RadioAstron observing time. RadioAstron proposals will be reviewed by the international RadioAstron program evaluation committee. Applying for time is a three-stage process. An initial Letter of Intent (LoI) should have been directed to the Mission by 17 October 2012. Each team submitting an LoI is expected to participate in the key science program (KSP) consortia organization workshop that will be held at the Max-Planck-Institute for Radio Astronomy in Bonn on 3-4 December 2012. Based on the positive feedback from the Mission and discussions with other potential KSP proposers during the December meeting, the resulting KSP consortia will prepare full KSP proposals to be submitted by 1 February 2013 to the Mission and to the respective ground radio telescopes required for the specific observations. While submitting an LoI and taking part in the workshop is expected to provide significant advantages to the teams in preparing their full proposals, this is not a mandatory requirement. Details can be found at <http://www.asc.rssi.ru/radioastron/ao-1/ao1.html>

We are happy to report that the international community has actively participated in the first phase of the process. We have received 31 Letters of Intent with the total observing time request about 4.5 thousand hours which is about 4 times larger than our estimate of available observing time during the AO-1 period. Some more statistics follows. These LoIs were submitted by about 160 co-authors from 18 countries, about 50 of them plan to participate in the consortia organization workshop in December. The highest number of authors are from Russia (34) being followed by Australia, Germany, and USA (about 20 each). Science areas covered by the LoIs include active galactic nuclei (the highest number of Letters), masers, pulsars, interstellar medium, transients, astrometry, gravity, and cosmology.

With best regards,
Nikolai Kardashev (nkardash@asc.rssi.ru)
Yuri Kovalev (yyk@asc.rssi.ru)

To subscribe or un-subscribe to the Newsletter, use:
<http://asc-lebedev.ru/index2.php?engdep=22>