



SCAR Sub-Group

AAA EG

Paper 18 Agenda Item 9

Person Responsible: Tony Travouillon

SCAR Executive Committee Meeting 2019

Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 29-31 July 2019

Astronomy & Astrophysics from Antarctica Expert Group 2018-19 Report

Report Author

Tony Travouillon (AAA chair), The Australian National University, Australia

Summary

The Astronomy and Astrophysics from Antarctica (AAA) expert group finished the 2018-2019 year holding its 5th bi-annual science workshop (<https://scar2019.oavda.it/>). The meeting was held in June 2019 at the Mont-Blanc conference centre in Italy. 42 astronomers met to discuss the latest scientific results from observations taken from the South Pole, Dome C, Dome A and by circumpolar balloons. Upgrades and future projects were also presented establishing clear scientific objectives for the future of astronomy at the different sites, taking into account the strengths and restrictions of each location on the plateau. The polar institutes of countries operating bases on the high plateau were invited to present the status of operation and the expected level of logistical support they can offer to scientist over the next few years. The AAA SCAR budget for 2019 was in large part (\$4,600) used to help participants attend the meeting prioritizing the early career scientists and minorities. The organising committee was able to leverage the SCAR contribution to obtain local funds from the Aosta Valley tourism office and government to bring the conference fee well below cost.

The AAA steering committee has met quarterly by teleconference. Dr Tony Travouillon has replaced Prof Anna Moore as the chair of the AAA expert group and as the IAU delegate at the beginning of 2019. His priority will be to deliver on the wish of AAA members to become of full-fledged science group. The steering committee meeting were also spent focusing on features that the groups new website should include. This new website is nearing completion and is expected to go live in August 2019, replacing the current website at www.astronomy.scar.org. The new features will focus on providing astronomers with information on existing projects and partnerships operating in Antarctica and encourage new collaborations. The website will also improve one of its main feature, with access to an updated list of publications on the atmospheric conditions of the different sites that will help astronomers determine the expected performance of observatories to be located on the Antarctic plateau.

Updates since 2018 Delegates Meeting

Please list any information that has changed since the SCAR 2018 Delegates Meeting, following the headings below.

What has been achieved?

Date	Activity
14/06/19	5 th AAA workshop
1/1/19	New AAA leadership

What lies ahead?

Date	Activity
1/08/19	Updated website
2019/2020	Push for formation of AAA science group

Budget

Changes to planned use of funds for 2019 and 2020

Year (YYYY)	Purpose/Activity	Amount (in USD)	Contact Name	Contact Email
2019	Workshop financial help to attendees	\$4,600	Tony Travouillon	Tony.travouillon@anu.edu.au
Total		\$4,600		

Membership

Changes to AAA Leadership

Role	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Country	Email	Date Started	Date Term is to End
Chair	Tony	Travouillon	Australian National University	Australia	Tony.travouillon@anu.edu.au	1/1/2019	1/1/2021

Please identify early-career researchers with * in first column

SCAR Fellowship Reviewers

Please list any people (name and email address) volunteered by AAA who would be willing to serve as reviewers for the next few years, along with 1-3 keywords on their principal expertise.

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Principal Expertise
Tony	Travouillon	Tony.travouillon@anu.edu.au	Instrumentation, Infrared astronomy
James	Madsen	james.madsen@uwrf.edu	High energy physics