

EXPReS Annual review

Huib Jan van Langevelde

Started with Annual report

- Major effort to compile
 - Text sections report
 - All financial information
 - And next 18m forward look
 - For a total of 247 pages
- Normal level of panic at JIVE office
 - All of us rather new to the process
 - Some issues with inconsistent budget
 - And a lot of mechanics to manage info
- Met all the **tight** deadlines!
 - Reviewed by EXPReS board 30/3/07
 - Sent to EC on 4/4/07 (before Eastern)
 - complete with preliminary audit reports
 - the whole thing in 35 days (« 45!)
- Thank you for your timely contributions!

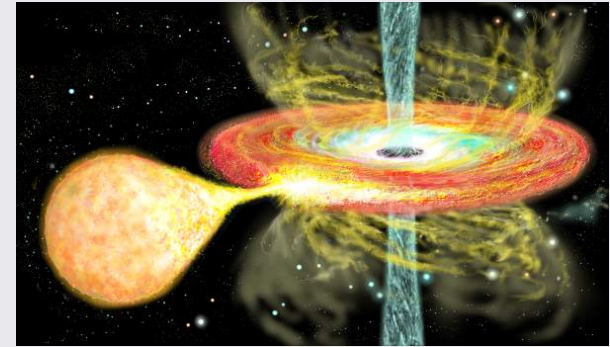


- Review in Brussels on April 17
 - Very much an away match
 - Quite shortly after the report was due
 - Week after RadioNet review,
 - quite a different experience
- Presented overview EXPRoS
 - Huib van Langevelde – Welcome + FABRIC
 - Ari Mujunen – General Introduction
 - Charles Yun – NA's and finances
 - Rob Fender – User perspective
 - Arpad Szomoru – SA1
 - Paco Colomer – SA2
- Reviewers:
 - Robin Arak – Network specialist, UK
 - Ken Kellerman – Astronomer NRAO
 - Victor Castelo – Network specialist, UK

only picture of the event:



- Attended by many EC officers
 - Jean-Luc Dorel – Current officer
 - Mario Campolargo – Head of unit
 - Bernhard Fabienek – Previous officer
 - Elena Righi-Steel – DG Research
- Several hours of information exchange
 - Spiced up by very good science talk Rob Fender
 - Most questions oriented towards network issue
 - Lot of effort to understand milestone tables
 - Our mistake, dropped cross-references from list
- Verdict at the end of the day
 - Project is OK, no need to make changes
 - Recommendations formulated
 - which seemed rather easy to adopt
 - Back to the trains & airplanes...



- Arrived finally last Friday 25 May 2007
 - Hope you have had a chance too look at it
 - Looks consistent with feedback during meeting
- Looks quite OK, no need to make changes
 - Personally disappointed we have not reached excellent
 - A bit surprised the financial issues are not reaching this level
 - And not too much about management change-over
- Asked to take the recommendations into the DoW
 - Reflects a small amount of extra paperwork

1. Regular monitor tool to measure operational bandwidth every day

- Seems to ignore that network is usually not bottleneck (yet)
- And that this is more or less a deliverable

SA1

2. Closer liaison with network people

- Pretty good already

NA2

3. Explore QoS tools to get better service

- Similar to above, but must do something

SA1 / NA2

4. Use more collaborative tools established elsewhere

- Not very EXPReS specific but simple enough

NA1

5. Keep closer control on deliverables

- Could have made a clearer presentation in the first place

NA1

- Progress was good
 - Mostly measured in terms of connectivity and bandwidth
 - Deliverables unclear and not all met
 - Project must take more control
 - No need to change objectives
 - Resources have been deployed but EC sees some issues with making manpower available
 - And certainly more to come...
 - Across all packages OK
- And then all milestones and deliverables
 - individually!
 - More problems when they are not traced
 - Than when they are not met
- Costs are reasonable and justified
 - Don't really understand comment on cost profile

- Agreed with the revised plan
 - Effectively rescheduled missed milestones
- Consortium
 - Effective in building on existing collaborations
 - Focus on the issues with Chinese connectivity
 - Reporting could have been more streamlined from the start
 - And must improve further
- Management
 - Effective links through wiki, meetings and teleconferencing
 - Need for strengthening relation astronomers – network people
 - Smooth transition of management observed

 - Regular reporting started late and is lacking financial information
 - Network has not been used for collaborative tools
 - Effective use of Geant, Grid and RadioNet, can even improve

- **Dissemination of knowledge**
 - Potential very important project for SKA
 - PR material is OK, but they want to see more images
 - Recognized that we appear on various conferences
 - Call for proposals is widely advertised
- **Other sensitive issues**
 - Networking policies have been met
 - No Ethical issues
 - No safety issues
 - Positive towards women in radio astronomy
- **EXPreS is a potential visible EC activity**
 - To highlight as a case story
 - As a media attractive activity
 - With outside EC participation
 - With top researchers

- These annual reviews are serious work
- And different from what we have seen before
- We are doing fine, esp when taking into account that we had a slow start
- The recommendations can easily be implemented
- We know what to look for if we want to improve our mark at the next exam!