

## **First Announcement**

### **"The third LOFAR Users meeting" and "The 2016 LOFAR Community Science Workshop" April 4-6, 2016**

#### **Zandvoort aan Zee, The Netherlands**

The International LOFAR Telescope (ILT) consortium will host the Third LOFAR Users meeting and the 2016 LOFAR Community Science workshop.

#### **The Third LOFAR Users Meeting, April 4, 2016 (likely between 11:00-18:00)**

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On Monday, staff from the ASTRON Radio Observatory will host the third LOFAR users meeting. This meeting is aimed at wide-ranging dialogue with the full LOFAR community, and is intended to bring together members of the Key Science Projects (KSPs), researchers with approved LOFAR projects, as well as any potential LOFAR users. ASTRON RO staff will demonstrate the current status of the LOFAR instrument and summarize plans for future development of software and procedures. This overview will naturally lay the scene for the science meeting of the following two days. For the users, this meeting represents an important forum for discussion, where they will have the opportunity to give their feedback on LOFAR operations and development, and highlight, when required, the need for improvement or change.

#### **The 2016 LOFAR Community Science Workshop, April 5-6, 2016 (2 full days)**

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This workshop will represent the fifth annual meeting of the LOFAR science collaboration since the onset of regular LOFAR science operations. These workshops aim to bring together all active LOFAR users, including members of the Key Science Project teams as well as any other researchers from the European and global community involved with or interested in LOFAR science. Following up on the operational overview provided by the Users meeting, this two-day workshop will feature a wide range of talks on exciting new scientific results from the Cycle observing programs. The workshop program will cover the gamut of the LOFAR science case from cosmology and extragalactic research to galactic, planetary, and solar system topics.

#### **Logistics**

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The meetings will be held in Zandvoort aan Zee, the Netherlands. The conference hotel is located at the beach side and the beach promenade, with easy access from Amsterdam Schiphol airport. A second announcement giving more details on the venue and accommodation and highlighting the procedures for abstract submission and on-line registration will be distributed in January 2016, when the conference website will be open. We anticipate that a registration fee will be requested in order to cover the costs of lunches and the workshop dinner.

If you have questions about these workshops, feel free to contact the LOC at [lofarworkshop@astron.nl](mailto:lofarworkshop@astron.nl). In the meantime, please mark these dates in your calendars and I hope to see many of you in April!

Sincerely,

Roberto Pizzo  
on behalf of the Local Organizing Committee