

## Second Announcement

### 'The Broad Impact of Low Frequency Observing' and the '4<sup>th</sup> LOFAR Users Meeting'

19-23 June, 2017

Bologna, Italy

[www.astron.nl/lowfrequencyobserving2017](http://www.astron.nl/lowfrequencyobserving2017)

[lowfrequency2017@astron.nl](mailto:lowfrequency2017@astron.nl)

*Registration and abstract submission are now open for the upcoming conference 'The Broad Impact of Low Frequency Observing' and the '4<sup>th</sup> LOFAR Users Meeting' to be held 19-23 June, 2017*

LOFAR, the most versatile and powerful low frequency radio observatory available, will complete the first five years of general user observing in 2017. A host of other low-frequency facilities, including the MWA, LWA, GMRT, VLITE, PAPER, CHIME, and 21CMA, are also impacting a wide range of research fields. Intensive preparations are under way for the SKA-low.

The conference 'The Broad Impact of Low Frequency Observing' will explore relevant links to some of the main facilities complementary to LOFAR including ALMA, the VLA, and VLBI networks in the radio, as well as some of the world's major observatories at other wavebands. There will be invited as well as contributed talks and posters. Participants will obtain a good overview of the versatility and state-of-the-art technical capabilities available at low frequencies, and of the planned upgrades to LOFAR and the other current facilities, looking ahead also to how these will complement the SKA-low in the years to come.

The conference will run from Monday morning 19 June, 9 am till Friday 23 June, lunchtime.

On Friday afternoon 23 June, staff from the ASTRON Radio Observatory will host the fourth 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. 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 meeting will run between 14:00 – 18:30.

## PROGRAMME

The scientific programme will feature at least the following session topics, each with review and invited talks, as well as contributed talks and posters:

Epoch of Reionisation & Cosmology  
Pulsars  
Transients  
The Milky Way and Nearby Galaxies  
AGN / Star formation  
Clusters

Sun, Solar System and Exoplanets  
Ionosphere / Upper Atmosphere  
Cosmic rays  
Instruments / Algorithms

Anyone wishing to have a contributed talk or poster presentation should submit a timely abstract as instructed below.

Social activities will take place on Wednesday afternoon, 21 June. Participants will be able to choose one of several options. More details will be distributed with the third announcement.

## **ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**

Abstract submission will be open until 2 April 2017. You will first need to register for the conference, before you will be able to submit an abstract. You can choose to submit an abstract for a talk or for a poster. Final selection will be carried out by the SOC before 1 May 2017.

## **REGISTRATION FEE AND DEADLINES**

The single registration fee includes full admission to both the Science Conference on 19-23 June and the 4<sup>th</sup> LOFAR Users Meeting on 23 June afternoon. The fee also covers participation in the social programme, the conference dinner, as well as lunches and further catering during the coffee/tea breaks provided at this five-day event.

Registration will be possible until 15 May 2017. A reduced registration fee of 250 euro will be applied for registrations completed by 2 April, which is also the mandatory deadline for abstract submissions. After that, a late registration fee of 325 euro will be applied.

You can register for the meeting [here](#) and submit an abstract [here](#).

Important deadlines:

22 December: Second announcement. Website goes live & registration opens  
3 February: Third announcement listing invited speakers; hotel bookings open  
2 April: abstracts submission deadline; early registration closes  
15 May: late registration closes

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

It will be possible to waive the registration fee for some students and beginning researchers. The budget for this support is limited, and requests must be received by the 2 April deadline. You can send an e-mail to the LOC at [lowfrequency2017@astron.nl](mailto:lowfrequency2017@astron.nl), stating the stage of your career, explaining other relevant circumstances, and giving your motivation for attending the conference. Decisions will be communicated by 1 May.

## **VENUE AND LOGISTICS**

The meetings will be held at the 'CNR Conference Centre' in Bologna, Italy. Details about the conference logistics are available on the workshop website:

[www.astron.nl/lowfrequencyobserving2017](http://www.astron.nl/lowfrequencyobserving2017)

We will provide an online tool for participants to book a hotel room at a discounted rate. Information about this will be given in the third announcement, along with other travel logistics.

The conference poster (including a high resolution image) can be found at the website: <http://www.astron.nl/lowfrequencyobserving2017/poster.php>  
We would appreciate if you would print and advertise the poster in your institute.

If you have questions about the conference, feel free to contact us directly at [lowfrequency2017@astron.nl](mailto:lowfrequency2017@astron.nl). We look forward to seeing you all in Bologna!

Sincerely,

Roberto Pizzo  
On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee

*Scientific Organizing Committee:*

*P. Best (University of Edinburgh) co-chair*  
*L. Koopmans (Kapteyn Astronomical Institute) co-chair*  
*R. Vermeulen (ASTRON/ILT) co-chair*  
*C. Carilli (NRAO)*  
*J. Chengalur (NCRA/TIFR)*  
*J. Croston (University of Southampton)*  
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*H. Rothkaehl (Space Research Centre, Polish Academy of Sciences)*  
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*S. Tingay (INAF)*  
*R. Wayth (Curtin University)*  
*P. Zarka (CNRS, Observatoire de Paris, PSL)*

*Local Organizing Committee:*

*R. Pizzo (ASTRON) co-chair*  
*I. Prandoni (INAF) co-chair*  
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