

Proposal for Forming an IAA Study Group S 1.3

Title of Study:

Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) Permanent Study Group

Proposer(s):

J. Tarter

Primary IAA Commission Preference: 1

Secondary IAA Commission Interests: 2,5,6

Members of Study Team

Chair: J. Tarter (USA)

Co-Chair: C. Maccone (Italy)

Secretary: G. Lemarchand (Argentina)

Other Members: I. Almar, M. Ashkenazi, R. Bhathal, J. Billingham, F. Biraud, S. Bowyer, A. Cocca, C. Cosmovici, K. Cullers, P. Davies, R. De Biase, D. DeVincenzi, S. Dick, S. Doyle, E. Fasan, B. Finney, A. Harrison, N. Jasentuliyana, J. Jugaku, N. Kardashev, V. Kopal, V. Kotelnikov, G. Lemarchand, R. Malina, S. Montebugnoli, R. Norris, C. Oliver, A. Ollongren, L. Perek, T. Pierson, V. Pletser, R. Ma. Ramirez de Arellano, M. Rees, N. Rendong, S. Rosenberg, J. Rummel, S. Santoli, S. Shostak, Y. Shuhua, P. Sterns, F. Stootman, V. Strel'nitskij, D. Tarter, L. Tennen, A. Tough, D. Vakoch, K. Wellington, D. Werthimer, A. Woods

Short Description of Scope of Study

Overall Goal and Intermediate Goals

SETI is an acronym for the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. The primary goal is to examine all aspects of possible future contact with extraterrestrial civilizations, with special reference to international issues and activities. These aspects include technical efforts to find evidence for extraterrestrial intelligence as well as the social consequences of such a discovery. In addition, this group promotes the interest and eventual involvement of students in this work, primarily through education initiatives, the Internet, and the mass media.

The primary task of the Study Group is to organize and conduct two SETI sessions at the annual International Astronautical Congresses. Study Group members also conduct workshops and Cosmic Studies for the International Academy of Astronautics, and publish papers on topics related to the scientific Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence.

Methodology:

See attached terms of reference.

In addition, work on the Cosmic Study on "Establishing a Radio Observatory on the Moon Farside," being headed by Dr. Claudio Maccone, will be completed by October 2002.

Time Line: Per correspondence with Dr. M. Yarymovych, the SETI Study Group will be a Permanent Study Group. During the next two years, activities will include SETI sessions to be held at IAF Congresses in both Toulouse and Houston. Session Coordinators, Chairs, and Rapporteurs for these two Congresses will be as follows:

Toulouse: Session I: J. Tarter, C. Maccone (Coordinators); S. Montebugnoli, S. Shostak (Chairs); D. DeVincenzi (Rapporteur). Session II: J. Tarter, C. Maccone (Coordinators); R. Malina, D. Vakoch (Chairs); P. Sterns (Rapporteur).

Houston: Session I: J. Tarter, D. Vakoch (Coordinators); J. Tarter, C. Maccone (Chairs); A. Tough (Rapporteur). Session II: J. Tarter, D. Vakoch (Coordinators); D. Vakoch, J. Rummel (Chairs); P. Sterns (Rapporteur).

Final Product (Report, Publication, etc.):

Past activities of the IAA SETI Committee have yielded six special issues of *Acta Astronautica* focused on SETI, and comparable issues are planned, with each new issue appearing approximately every 3-4 years, drawing on the best of the peer-reviewed papers presented at previous Congresses. In addition, the individual contributions to the Cosmic Study on "Establishing a Radio Observatory on the Moon Farside" will be published after undergoing peer-review.

Target Community:

The SETI Permanent Study Group will be of interest to scientists, engineers, legal scholars, and social scientists, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of SETI.

Support Needed:

Web site

Potential Sponsors:

To be returned to IAA Secretariat Paris email: sgeneral@iaaweb.org

Date: 3/15/01

Signature: Jill Tarter

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