

Proposal for Forming an IAA Study Group: S 6.3

Title of Study:

Interstellar Message Construction

Proposer(s):

Jill Tarter and Douglas A. Vakoch

Primary IAA Commission Preference:

(From Commission 1 to Commission 6) 6

Secondary IAA Commission Interests:

(From Commission 1 to Commission 6) 1

Members of Study Team

Chairs: Jill Tarter (Chair); Douglas A. Vakoch (Deputy Chair)

Secretary: Arthur Woods

Other Members:

Ivan Almar, Frank Drake, William Edmondson, Roger Malina, Carol Oliver, Alexander Ollongren, Thomas Pierson, David Rosenboom, Sundar Sarukkai, John Schott, Seth Shostak, Patricia Sterns

Short Description of Scope of Study**Overall Goal:**

To identify promising opportunities for expanded research in interstellar message construction, based on a review of extant methods as well as an exploration of innovative alternatives. In the process, new participants to the discussion will be identified, increasing the diversity of perspectives incorporated.

Intermediate Goals:

Organize discussions in conjunction with meetings on interstellar message design sponsored by partner organizations, leading to recommendations for future research opportunities. Encourage participants in the discussion to publish on the topic.

Methodology:

Organize discussions in conjunction with 1) meetings devoted to interstellar message construction and 2) sessions on interstellar message construction that are part of more broad-based meetings. Among the projected venues: Paris (independent workshop, March 2003); Zagreb (independent workshop, March 2003); Washington, DC (World Archaeological Congress, June 2003); Bremen (IAC, October 2003); Lyon (Congress of the International Association for Semiotic Studies, July 2004)

Time Line:

2003 - 2006

Final Product (Report, Publication, etc.):

A white paper will be produced, providing recommendations for future directions of research in interstellar message construction that are likely to be productive. Publication in a peer-reviewed journal will be sought. An opportunity will be sought to present the study to the UN COPUOS.

Target Community:

Members of the international astrobiology and Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) communities, the broader international space sciences community, and the United Nations COPUOS.

Support Needed:

Financial support for hosting meetings will be needed from co-sponsoring organizations. Past support has been obtained from the SETI Institute and the Leonardo Network.

Potential Sponsors:

SETI Institute; John Templeton Foundation

To be returned to IAA Secretariat Paris fax: 33 1 47 23 82 16 email: sgeneral@iaonet.org

Date:

Signature:

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