EPN2020-RI

EUROPLANET2020 Research Infrastructure

H2020-INFRAIA-2014-2015

Grant agreement no: 654208

Deliverable 4.6

Second annual report of TA3 access

Due date of deliverable:

31/08/2017

Actual submission date:

30/08/2017

Start date of project: 01 September 2015 Duration: 48 months

Responsible WP Leader: Vrije Universiteit, Professor Gareth R. Davies

Project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme		
Dissemination level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Service)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (excluding the Commission Services)	

Project Number	654208
Project Title	EPN2020 - RI
Project Duration	48 months: 01 September 2015 – 30 August 2019

Deliverable Number	D4.6
Contractual Delivery date	31.08.2017
Actual delivery date	30.08.2017
Title of Deliverable	Second annual report of TA3 access
Contributing Work package (s)	WP4
Dissemination level	Public
Author (s)	Names

Abstract: The present report summarizes the status of Distributed Sample Analysis Facility (DSAF); TA3 after the second year. The TA 3 applications approved by the peer review process (34 projects so far) have generally requested longer visits than predicted. This has resulted in a lower number of individual users than foreseen in the original Europlanet 2020-RI submission but the total take of laboratory time is approximately on schedule for the midpoint to the project. The *in situ* secondary ionization mass spectrometers have proved to be particularly in demand so that resources have been re-allocated to allow them to continue to operate within the project in the final year. The TA visits have resulted in several 10's of presentations at international conferences (LPSC, Goldschmidt, EPSC etc) and high profile publications are expected to appear in 2018 and beyond.

Overview of TA programme:

Full details of the third TA call procedure and peer review process are given in deliverables D2.8; 3.8; 4.8 including break downs of the country from which applications were made. Over views of the first two calls can be found in the first annual report (D4.3) and the periodic report. Little has changed in the procedure compared to the first annual report other than the increased number of applications in TA call 2 & 3 necessitated a larger pool of reviewers and for call 3, three dedicated panels were set up to review TA 1, 2, & 3 respectively.
The strategy to advertise TA availability continued as in previous years with the addition of dedicated flyers designed and produced by the NA2 team that were distributed at international conferences such as COSPAR, LPSC etc. The success of the strategy is highlighted by the increasing number of applications for TA access.

The TA3 programme:

Within TA3 all facilities have hosted TA accesses in the last year and are scheduled to do so in 2017 & 2018. As explained in the periodic report and below, some resources were re-allocated to allow the most popular facilities to continue to offer TA access in the final year of the project.

In call one 13 TA3 visits were approved in the peer review process, of which eight have been entirely completed, including approval of the submitted a final report. One successful applicant has withdrawn due to taking up a position abroad and not now being able to travel to Europe. The remaining TA visits had to be rescheduled due to practical reasons that included instrument failure and illness. The four outstanding visits have been allocated specific dates for their visits, in one case in early 2018. All TA Reports are stored on a secure server and uploaded into the secure area on the Europlanet website. The Europlanet Office have access to the OU server and the TA Committee have access to the reports on the website.

In call two 14 of 18 TA 3 applications were approved in the peer review process. Of the 14 approved TA access, 4 are completed with an approved final report. Four projects were completed in July-August and 4 are currently underway or scheduled for September 2017 full. The remaining 2 TA access are scheduled in the next 3 months. To date no call 2 visits have been cancelled or suffered major rescheduling due to instrument failure etc.

In call three10 of 16 TA 3 applications were approved in the peer review process. These access have been scheduled for the coming 6-9 months with the goal to have as many completed as possible before the results of the next TA call are announced in May 2018. Additional capabilities will be available in the next TA 3 call related to the successful development work carried out as part of JRA3; WP 9. The development of more sensitive ion beam detection seems destined to be a game changer and result in new applications within and outside the field of planetary science.

Modifications within the overall TA programme:

As mentioned in the periodic report, there have been significant changes in the scientific requirements requested by TA users compared to the previous Europlanet program. Most notably users are being more adventurous in their requests and asking for significantly longer periods of access than foreseen in the original Europlanet 2020-RI submission. The scientific justification for the requests was positively evaluated by the peer review panels and so the projects are being implemented. This means that the total number of TA accesses are lower than expected even though the time spent in the laboratories (man days) is close to the level expected at this stage of the project. A second issue is that the *in situ* ion microprobe instruments have been in huge demand, to such a degree that they will reach their allocated number of daily access during the implementation of successful Call 3 TA accesses. Hence resources were re-allocated following the periodic review to enable them to continue to host TA accesses in the future. Most of the re-allocation of access time involved redistribution within individual institutions. Very similar strategies have been adopted in TA 1 & 2. In TA1, resources were moved away from Rio Tinto, the most popular field analogue site in the previous Europlanet RI to allow more access to Ibn Battuta and the new site developed in the Danakil depression (Ethiopia). Within TA2 additional resources will be allocated to:
The Planetary Environment Facilities (PEF), University of Aarhus; Planetary Emissivity Laboratory, Institute for Planetary Research, DLR, Berlin, Interactive Microbiome Research Group (IMRG) Medical University Graz.

For TA3 in particular, the amendment currently under evaluation is described in the following:

-RNTSI (WWU): units of access decreased from 140 to 100
-LFS (OU): units of access decreased from 32 to 15
-CSSIA (OU): units of access decreased from 50 to 20
-GGIF (VUA): units of access decreased from 180 to 100
-CNRS Facilities
HNIF units of access decreased from 40 to 20
SRIF units of access decreased from 70 to 50
IPF units of access increased from 60 to 95

Dissemination of Results:

Dissemination of the results has to date mainly been at high profile international meetings such as 48th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference, Houston March 2017; and Goldschmidt Paris August 2017. A series of presentations are also scheduled in sessions at the forthcoming European Planetary Science Congress 2017 in Riga, Latvia (September 2017). These presentations give us the confidence that a series of high impact publications will start to appear from early 2018 onwards.