

Letter of Intent to become an IAU Commission -- announcement

dear friends of the MSWG,

the Organizing Committee has submitted a Letter of Intent to the IAU to turn our Working Group into an IAU Commission. You find the Lol text at the end of this message. The final decision will be taken by the IAU Executive Committee in April 2015. If you are interested in the details, visit:

<http://www.iau.org/news/announcements/detail/ann14014/>

<http://iau.org/news/announcements/detail/ann14008/>

<http://www.iau.org/news/announcements/detail/ann14029/>

In the next days the IAU will open an electronic poll on the proposed Commissions as part of the whole decision process. The results of the poll will be taken into account by the IAU for the final decision. All IAU members can vote for up to three of the proposed Commissions.

The Massive Stars Working Group encourages all IAU members of the group to vote in the electronic poll before its deadline (foreseen November 30), to show our interest in becoming a Commission after 20 years of uninterrupted operation of the Working Group. The IAU will announce shortly the votation procedure.

The full proposal is due in January, 31, 2015 and will be based on the Lol. If you have comments or suggestions to improve the proposal, please send them to me or to any of the members of the MSWG Organizing Committee. You find the names and addresses in the Working Group web page
http://www.astroscu.unam.mx/massive_stars

with best regards,

Artemio Herrero

chair, on behalf of the Organizing Committee of the Massive Stars Working Group

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Submission details

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Name of the Commission: Massive Stars Commission

Inter-Division Commission

Primary Division: Division G Stars and Stellar Physics

Parent Division 1: Division H Interstellar Matter and Local Universe

Parent Division 2: Division J Galaxies and Cosmology

First Co-Proposer:

First name: Gregor

Last name: Rauw

Institute: Institute d'Astrophysique

City: Liège

Country: Belgium

Email: rauw@astro.ulg.ac.be

Second Co-Proposer:

First name: Nicole

Last name: St.-Louis

Institute: Université de Montréal

City: Montréal

Country: Canada

Email: stlouis@ASTRO.UMontreal.CA

Third Co-Proposer:

First name: Jorick

Last name: Vink

Institute: Armagh Observatory

City: Armagh

Country: United Kingdom

Email: jsv@arm.ac.uk

Commission based on existing Working Group: Division G WG Massive Stars

Rationale:

The massive stars community organized itself and created the Massive Stars Working Group (MSWG) in 1995, nearly 20 years ago. Since then, it has been in operation without interruption, being re-appointed after each General Assembly. The MSWG contains over 400 members, with more than 100 senior IAU members. These facts already indicate that their activities and interests go beyond the goals and limits of a Working Group.

The MSWG is very active in organizing, focussing and promoting massive star research. Every two months it publishes the Massive Stars Newsletter, which includes the latest accepted papers, PhD theses, upcoming meetings and workshops and job offers, as well as any information of interest for the community. Up to now, 142 Newsletters have been issued. For even faster information dissemination within the community, the MSWG maintains a 24-hours announcement service. New submissions in the last 24 hours are distributed to interested members upon subscription to this service.

One of the most important activities of the MSWG is the organization of regular meetings of broad interest to the whole massive star community, most of them IAU Symposia, with an approximate frequency of 4-5 years. In addition, numerous IAU