

Call for Papers

**The SETI Permanent Study Group
of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA)
invites you to submit Abstracts for the Conference**

SEARCHING FOR LIFE SIGNATURES

***To be held at UNESCO in Paris, France,
September 22-23-24-25-26, 2008***

***DEADLINE for Abstract Submission is
February 29, 2008***

***Abstracts (400 words max.) must be submitted to the
Coordinator: Dr. Claudio Maccone (IAA - SETI PSG)
E-mail: clmaccon@libero.it***

Conference Rationale

SETI (the “Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence”) refers to the experiments intended to find either radio or optical signals from extraterrestrial societies situated on planets around other stars. The largest radio telescopes world-wide have occasionally pursued SETI searches since 1960, in most cases hunting for signals near in frequency to 1420 MHz (the emission line of neutral hydrogen). Optical SETI searches have been pursued since the 1990s. These attempts to detect extraterrestrial signals are called “Passive SETI”.

In recent years, new kind of SETI, called “Active SETI”, has been discussed by radio astronomers and has actually been attempted in a few cases: it consists of deliberately transmitting signals to enhance the probability of making contact with other hypothetical galactic technological civilizations.

In addition, the discovery since 1995 of more than 200 extrasolar planets makes it clear that both Passive and Active SETI may now be “targeted” towards exoplanets that are situated within habitable zones, further increasing the probability of a SETI success.

In conclusion, it is now timely to gather a large conference of experts in SETI, biosignatures, the search for terrestrial exoplanets and related disciplines from all over the globe to openly discuss the strategies of both Passive and Active SETI. These are the goals of the “Searching for Life Signatures” Conference that will take place in Paris, September 22nd thru 26th, 2008, in the week just prior to the International Astronautical Congress to be held in Glasgow.

(tentative) PROGRAM

- Monday, Sept. 22: Morning: PASSIVE SETI - Current and Near-Future Searches.
Afternoon: PASSIVE SETI - Technological and Societal Issues.
- Tuesday, Sept. 23: Morning: ACTIVE SETI - Proposals and Technological Issues.
Afternoon: ACTIVE SETI - Societal Issues.
- Wed., Sept. 24: Morning: Radio astronomy and SETI from the Moon's Far Side and More. Afternoon: Extrasolar Planets, Biosignatures and SETI.
- Thurs., Sept. 25: Morning: Future Space Missions to detect Extrasolar Habitable Planets.
Afternoon: General Debate and "Conference Declaration".
- Evening: Conference Dinner.
- Friday, Sept. 26: Late morning and afternoon: Visit (by bus) to the Nançay (near Orléans) grand decimetric radiotelescope at which SETI searches were conducted in the 1980s and 1990s by Jill Tarter, François Biraud et al.

REGISTRATION FEE

The final decision about charging each participant a registration fee has not yet been taken, since we are in the process of searching for sponsors. In case such sponsors are not found, participants will likely be asked to pay a fee of 100 Euros (equivalent to 150 US dollars) plus the cost of the conference dinner for participants wishing to attend same.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

The Conference venue, UNESCO, is located in central Paris (Metro: Cambronne station on line #6). Each participant will be responsible for booking and paying for his or her hotel room. A modest but efficient hotel at walking distance from both UNESCO and the Cambronne Metro station is the Hotel Ibis Paris Tour Eiffel Cambronne, web site http://www.ibishotel.com/ibis/fichehotel/gb/ibi/1400/fiche_hotel.shtml
Early booking is advised.