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**A New IAA Cosmic Study:
Establishing a Radio Observatory on the Moon Farside**

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In 1998, the IAA decided to develop a new Cosmic Study following a suggestion by its President, M. Yarymovych, based on work I initiated in 1993. This project is jointly fully supported by G. Haerendel, Vice-President of the IAA and President of the COSPAR. After the Symposium “Protection of Part of a Celestial Body for the Scientific Benefit of Humankind: the Lunar Farside Crater SAHA Proposal”, which I organized at the COSPAR 1998 Scientific Assembly, the IAA Space Science Committee endorsed this study also.

I assembled a Committee including D. McNally, University of London Observatory, for Radio Protection, B. Reijnen, International Institute of Space Law, for Space Law, G. Genta, Politecnico di Torino, for Astronautics, J.-F. Lestrade, Paris-Meudon Observatory, for Radioastronomy, and C. Maccone, IAA SETI and Interstellar Space Exploration Committees, for Mission Management.

We encourage contributions from workers in a wide range of interdisciplinary domains: space lawyers, space engineers, astronomers, policy makers, economics, education, and media analysts. I started to invite potential contributors from various sources such as programmes of IAF, IAA, IISL, COSPAR, IAU, NASA, ESA and other space agencies recent conferences, together with news from journals such as *Science*, *Nature*, and *Space News*. The basic philosophy is not to refrain to give access to persons of different opinions, so that a balance can be presented, aiming at some synthesizing consensus.

I shall be the Editor, submitting papers to two referees and taking advice from the Committee in controversial cases.