

## **Status of the Proposal for Establishing a Radio Observatory on the Farside of the Moon**

*J. Heidmann, Observatoire de Paris, France*

In view of the ever increasing level of man-made radio frequency interferences around the Earth, I proposed in 1993 to protect a lunar farside specific crater, SAHA, in order to insure, for the future scientific benefit of Humankind, a pristine locale for the next 20-30 years of radio astronomy at large. Following a symposium I organized on the subject at COSPAR 1998 Scientific Assembly in Nagoya, the International Academy of Astronautics asked me to pursue by initiating a new Cosmic Study, i.e. essentially a virtual symposium, with the full support of its Space Science Committee and of the COSPAR President.

Last year, after creating an interdisciplinary international 5-members Overseeing Committee, I invited radio astronomers, space lawyers, -engineers, -policy makers, - industry actors to contribute to a wide range of disciplines: 1) criteria of choice on the Moon, 2) radio frequency interferences, 3) programmatic issues, 4) planning/policies, 5) legal aspects, 6) interdisciplinary aspects and 7) other sociological, financial, political, industrial, commercial aspects,

Twenty-five submitted abstracts have been accepted and we are now in the stage of collecting full papers to be published by the IAA. In Noordwijk we wish to report on the main points of interest highlighted by these contributions.

The aim of Cosmic Study is to provide the decision makers of space faring countries an unbiased scientific and technological basis for their commitments to multinational space programs.