

MEETING REPORT 2011

ESA TOPICAL TEAM ART & SCIENCE

This report was written¹ in order to establish a catalogue of reasons, measures and output formats which could result from a cooperation between ESA and the arts («ESA Art Initiative», EAI).

Furthermore, this report provides arguments towards implementation of such an initiative as well as suggestions for possible formats of cooperation. The report is divided into four sections:

<i>Part 1: Introduction</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Part 2: On cooperations between ESA and the Arts</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Part 3: Forms of cooperation / interaction between ESA and the Arts</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Part 4: Proposal for the structure of an ESA Art Initiative</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Annexes</i>	<i>31</i>

A detailed table of contents is to be found overleaf

¹ By the Topical Team Arts & Sciences (ETTAS), which met at EAC between 06/ 29 and 07/11/2011.

See [p56](#) for list of participants, [p27](#) for next steps and [p25](#) for recommendations

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Part 1: Introduction</i>	3
1.2 Executive summary	4
<i>Part 2: About cooperations between ESA and the arts</i>	5
2.1 How could ESA benefit from cooperating with artists?	5
2.2 How do artists benefit from such a setting?	5
2.3 How could such a cooperation work?	6
2.4 Preferable kind of cooperation from the view of the artists	6
2.5 What kind of works could result?	6
2.6 What kind of public impact could such a cooperation put forth?	6
<i>Part 3: Formats for cooperations</i>	7
3.1 How does an artist work?	7
3.2 Well established formats of Immersion and cooperation	9
3.3 ESA Infrastructure applicable for EAI (Proposal)	10
3.4 Financing	11
3.5 Quality Management	12
3.6 Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)	13
<i>Part 4: Proposal for the Structure of an ESA Art Initiative</i>	14
4.1 Basic structure of cooperative art/science production	14
4.2 Detailed Structure Diagram	15
4.3 Key players / roles	17
4.4 Proposed initiative (cooperation) formats	19
4.5 Terms of engagement	21
4.6 Location and mode of creation	23
4.7 Strategic relations and dissemination	24
4.8 Recommendations	26
4.9 Next Steps	28
4.10 Timeline first initiative cycle	30
<i>Annexes</i>	31
A1 Previous Work in the Field (ESA, NASA, JAXA, independent work)	31
A2 References	55
A3 ESA Topical Team Art and Science (ETTAS)	56

PART 1:

INTRODUCTION

Similar to the way the members of the ESA Human Spaceflight Directorate are ambassadors for spaceflight and science, artists and cultural professionals are ambassadors for human expression, experimentation, and exploration.

Therefore, an ESA Initiative aimed towards a cooperation with the arts is an opportunity to stimulate the public notion towards ESA's goals.

In June 2011, the ESA Topical Team Arts & Sciences (ETTAS), held a three-day workshop at EAC. The team was complemented by Oliver Angerer as well as three scientists from other Topical Teams² and ESA astronaut Frank de Winne. During this workshop the topics and ideas that are condensed into this report were discussed.

As the authors of this report are presented³ with the opportunity to showcase ESA's scientific–artistic work in the frame of a large, space-related exhibition which is to be held in the third quarter of 2014 at the Bundeskunsthalle Bonn⁴, we suggest to aim at this date for the completion of a first ESA Art Initiative cycle.

In the two following sections of this report we present a number of measures and mechanisms in order to initiate and conduct such an initiative. The subsequent sections are dedicated to a more in-depth view regarding organizational measures, procedures and consequences, as well as a proposition on how to proceed.

² J. Michelle Kotler, Alexander Chouker and Marco Durante

³ Stephan Andrae via Email July 27, 2011 to Barbara Imhof: «I confirm herewith our suggestion of the Cologne conference to offer a platform for 1) a result conference, workshops etc. and 2) possible artistic/scientific contributions to our forthcoming exhibition *Weltraum — Outer Space* (working title) from September 2014 to January 2015. Nr 2) would be subject of the curators decision.»

⁴ <http://bundeskunsthalle.posterous.com/weltraum-outer-space-ausstellung-2014-in-der>

1.2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The arts offer alternative insights into reality — which is explored by science in general, and broadened by the activities conducted by the European Space Agency (ESA) and other space agencies. Similar to the way the members of ESA are ambassadors for spaceflight and science, artists and cultural professionals are ambassadors for human expression, experimentation, and exploration. In June 2011, the ESA Topical Team Arts & Sciences (ETTAS), held a three-day workshop at the European Astronaut Centre in Cologne, Germany. During this workshop, topics and ideas were discussed to develop a cooperation between the arts, sciences and ESA to foster and expand the human and cultural aspects of space exploration, and at the same time offer a means of communication which would aim to reach audiences beyond the scope of traditional space-related channels.

The preliminary findings and consensus of the team was that establishing and sustaining a transdisciplinary professional community consisting of ESA representatives, scientists and artists would fuel knowledge transfer, and mutual inspiration. Potential ways to provide a sustainable cooperation within and between the various groups were discussed and will be presented. A number of measures and mechanisms in order to initiate and conduct such an initiative and a more in-depth view regarding organizational measures, procedures and consequences, as well as a proposition on how to proceed are included in this report.

Overall, the involvement and cooperation between the Arts, Space Science Research and ESA will enhance in the citizens of the ESA member states the sense of public ownership of ESA results, and participation in ESA's research. Another aspect the team would like to discuss in the future is artist's role in discovery or research.

The report is structured into five main parts. The first tries to set the scene by asking the most prevalent questions and finding first answers. It also clarifies the benefits and outcome of such an initiative for ESA, the scientists and the artists. The second part suggests possible formats of cooperations taking into account ESA's and the artists' respective operational structures. Further, part three, presents an option for a concrete plan for an ESA Art Initiative proposing a first timeline and recommendations. The fourth and last part is the Annex that displays a selection of art works relevant to this theme from the present to the past. Important to the authors was a list of references with website addresses to earlier, similar and complementing initiatives. Finally, a list of authors is included in this report.