



ICRANet



AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

BETWEEN

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF CHINA (USTC)

AND

**INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR RELATIVISTIC ASTROPHYSICS NETWORK
(ICRANet)**

The USTC, University of Science and Technology of China, located at 96 JinZhai Road Baohe District, Hefei, Anhui 230026. hereon referred as USTC, and here represented by its President Prof. Xinhe Bao, born in Jiangsu, China, in August, 1959.

and

The ICRANet, International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics Network, located in Piazza della Repubblica 10, 65122 Pescara (Italy), hereon referred as ICRANet and here represented by its Director, Prof. Remo Ruffini, born in Briga (France) on May 17, 1942.

Clause 1

Activities

The activities to be developed within the aim of the present cooperation Agreement will consist of joint actions including:

- I. Promotion of theoretical and observational research activities within the field of Relativistic Astrophysics between USTC and the States and Institutions Members of ICRANet. At present the Members are: Armenia (with seat in the National Academy of Science in Yerevan), Brazil (with seat at CBPF in Rio de Janeiro), Italy (with seats at ICRANet in Pescara and in Rome and French seat at Villa Ratti in Nice), Vatican City State (with seat in the Vatican Observatory at Castel

- Gandolfo and at the Steward Observatory in Tucson), ICRA, Stanford University and the University of Arizona;
- II. The institutional exchange of faculty members, researchers, post-doctoral fellows and students;
 - III. Promotion of technological developments between USTC and ICRA/ICRANet Members, as well as other cooperation scientific Institutions. Special attention will be devoted to space missions and advanced experiments and observations from the ground and underground facilities and observatories;
 - IV. Development of Data Centers for Astrophysical data in all wavebands;
 - V. The organization of training and teaching courses, and the development of inter-institutional research areas associated to local graduate programs with the participation of USTC in the International Relativistic Astrophysics Ph.D. Program (IRAP Ph.D.).
 - VI. The organization of seminars, conferences, workshops or short courses;
 - VII. Joint publications;
 - VIII. Institutions with joint cooperation agreements with ICRA-ICRANet, as December 2020:
 - International organizations: ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics), TWAS (Third World Academy of Sciences - ICRA and ICRANet);
 - Albania: University of Tirana;
 - Argentina: UNS (Universidad Nacional del Sur), UNLP (Universidad Nacional de La Plata);
 - Armenia: CSA (State Committee of Science of Armenia), NAS RA (National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia);
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina: University of Tuzla;
 - Brazil: CBPF (Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas), Government of the State of Ceará, ITA (Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica), UDESC (Universidade do Estado de Santa Catarina), UFPB (Universidade Federal da Paraíba), UFRGS (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul) - IFUFRGS (Instituto de Física da UFRGS), UnB (Universidade de Brasília), UNICAMP (Universidade Estadual de Campinas), UTFPR (Universidade Tecnológica Federal do Paraná);
 - Belarus: BRFFR (Belarusian Republican Foundation For Fundamental Research), BSU (Belarusian State University), NASB (National Academy of Sciences of Belarus);
 - China: IHEP (Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Science), Sun Yat-Sen University, UCGWP (United Center for Gravitational Wave Physics), USTC (University of Science and Technology of China);
 - Colombia: UDEA (Universidad de Antioquia), Universidad del Valle;
 - Czech Republic: Silesian University in Opava;
 - Georgia: TSU (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University);
 - Hungary: WIGNER Research Centre for Physics;
 - Iran: IASBS (Institute For Advanced Studies In Basic Sciences), IPM (Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences), Isfahan University of Technology, Sharif University of Technology, University of Mazandaran, Shiraz University;

- Italy: ASI (Agenzia Spaziale Italiana), CNR (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche), INAF (Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica), the University Campus Bio-Medico (ICRA and ICRA Net), the University of Ferrara, the University of Insubria (ICRA), the University of L'Aquila; the University of Udine (ICRA);
- Kazakhstan: Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, ENU (Eurasian National University), JSC (National Center of Space Research and Technology), KPS (Kazakh Physical Society);
- Mexico: UAM (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana), UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México);
- Serbia: University of Belgrade, University of Novi Sad;
- Slovenia: University of Ljubljana;
- United Arab Emirates: University of Sharjah;
- USA: Space Telescope Institute (ICRA), Washington University (ICRA), Leland Stanford Junior University (ICRA and ICRA Net), University of Arizona.

The list will be updated yearly.

Clause 2

Addenda

The implementation of the activities envisaged by the contracting parties will be specified by means of additional specific terms to the present cooperation agreement. These will be signed by the contracting parties at the time of defining common projects, areas of research or education or any other activities of mutual interest.

The Addenda must include: a research project with time schedule, human and material resources and individuals responsible for the planned activities.

Clause 3

Commitments

Both Institutions must adopt, as a general principle and to the extent of their budgetary possibilities, the financing of academic actions carried out by this agreement. The party which sends professors/ researchers/technicians/students may cover transport expenses. The party which receives will cover living expenses, which presumably includes housing and food, contingent on the budget. To finance such expenses, participants can apply to granting agencies and other national or international institutions. Students, professors, researchers and administrative staff taking part in exchange activities must have health insurance (to be provided by their home institute) valid during those activities.

Clause 4

Academic Products

When activities originating from the present of Cooperation Agreement result in products improvements or innovations subject to rights, both parties will establish, according to proper regulatory legislation and by means of specific instruments, the conditions that will regulate property rights, in accordance with the law and proportionately to the contribution of each institution.

Clause 5

Executors

The activities developed within the aim of this Cooperation Agreement will be carried out by Members of both parties, appointed by each institution, according to the nature of the activities in each case, the parties being allowed to rely upon the support of external organizations. An operational Standing Committee composed by two members of each one of the signing Institutions will be nominated by the time of the signature of the present Agreement. The Committee will meet at least once a year to draw plans for the joint events. The meeting can occur by electronic means (such as e-conference).

Clause 6

Duration

The present instrument will be valid for 5 (five) years, starting from the date of its signature. It will be extended automatically for another 5 (five) years through an exchange of letters between the signatories.

Clause 7

Cancellation

This present Cooperation Agreement may be canceled by any of the parties, by means of notification at least 60 (sixty) days in advance-which may be waived if both parties come to a consensual agreement-being advisable, however, to see that ongoing activities are maintained. This Agreement will be automatically extinguished if any circumstances foreseen in legislations ruling either one or both parties prevent the observance of its validity.

Clause 8

Signature and acceptance of the agreement

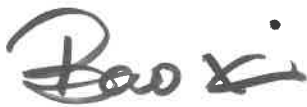
As proof of the agreement on what above, the parties sign this document in 2 (two) copies in English, authentic and identical in form and content, at the presence of undersigned witnesses, and signed for each other to produce legal effects.

Date, place 28/12/2020

Hefei - Peking

For USTC

For ICRANet



Prof. Xinhe Bao
President



Prof. Remo Ruffini
Director