

# GRAVITATIONAL-WAVE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

## GWIC

June 7, 2010

### **GWIC Support for the IndIGO Consortium for Gravitational-wave Physics and Astronomy**

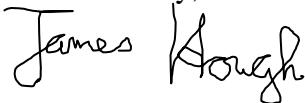
On behalf of GWIC, the Gravitational Wave International Committee, I am writing to express our strong support for the IndIGO Consortium for Gravitational-wave Physics and Astronomy, a collaborative effort to expand the participation of the Indian gravitational wave community in the global search for these elusive waves. The detection of gravitational waves from violent astrophysical systems in our Universe is one of the most challenging problems in experimental astrophysics, and the state of the art technology it uses has a very high potential return to society. It promises the opening up of a new field of astronomy - for example, the observation of the interactions of black holes and neutron stars in a way not possible with conventional optical, radio or other electromagnetic techniques.

GWIC was formed in 1997 to facilitate collaboration and cooperation in the construction, operation and use of the major gravitational wave detection facilities world-wide. It is affiliated with the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics as a sub-committee of IUPAP's Particle and Nuclear Astrophysics and Gravitation International Committee. A key GWIC goal is to promote international collaborations, especially those that expand the capabilities of the gravitational wave community.

The Indian gravitational wave community has had a long-standing collaboration in theory and data analysis with the global gravitational wave community, notably in the US project LIGO, but in the past year there has been a surge in interest in expanding this collaboration towards experimental work. The IndIGO Consortium is helping to open new research opportunities in this important field, while sustaining the existing connections, by supporting collaborative work between Indian scientists and students and their international colleagues. GWIC endorses the multi-pronged strategy proposed by the IndIGO consortium, consisting of an advanced prototype in India and strong participation in the global program, especially a close collaboration for a new detector in Australia.

In summary, the membership of GWIC urges the host research institutes and funding agencies to support the IndIGO consortium and its efforts to bring this important scientific opportunity to reality.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. James Hough FRS, FRSE, FAPS, FInstP  
Chair, Gravitational Wave International Committee,  
Kelvin Professor of Natural Philosophy,  
Associate Director of the Institute for Gravitational Research, University of Glasgow,  
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Current member projects and their representatives on GWIC include:

**ACIGA**

- Jesper Munch, University of Adelaide

**ALLEGRO**

- William O. Hamilton, Louisiana State University

**AURIGA**

- Massimo Cerdonio, University of Padua and INFN

**EINSTEIN TELESCOPE**

- Michele Punturo, INFN-Perugia, and EGO

**EXPLORER/NAUTILUS**

- Eugenio Coccia, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"

**EUROPEAN PULSAR  
TIMING ARRAY (EPTA)**

- Michael Kramer, Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics (University of Manchester)

**GEO 600**

- Karsten Danzmann, Albert-Einstein-Institut für Gravitationsphysik and University of Hannover
- Sheila Rowan, University of Glasgow

**LIGO, including the LSC**

- Jay Marx, California Institute of Technology
- David Reitze, University of Florida

**LISA**

- Thomas Prince, California Institute of Technology
- Bernard Schutz, Albert-Einstein-Institut für Gravitationsphysik
- Robin Stebbins, Goddard Space Flight Center
- Stefano Vitale, University of Trento

**MiniGRAIL and other  
Spherical Acoustic Detectors**

- Giorgio Frossati, Leiden University

**NANOGrav**

- Andrea Lommen, Franklin and Marshall College

**PARKES PULSAR TIMING  
ARRAY (PPTA)**

- Dick Manchester, Australia Telescope National Facility (ATNF)

**TAMA/CLIO/LCGT**

- Seiji Kawamura, National Astronomical Observatory (Japan)
- Kazuaki Kuroda, Institute for Cosmic Ray Research, University of Tokyo

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- Francesco Fidecaro, University of Pisa
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