

# RUSSIAN VIRTUAL OBSERVATORY




The ultimate goal of the Russian Virtual Observatory (RVO) initiative is to integrate resources of astronomical data accumulated in Russian observatories and institutions and to provide transparent access for scientific and educational purposes to the distributed information and data services therein.

The Research Council on Astronomy (Russian Academy of Sciences) strongly endorsed the RVO initiative in December 2001. The RVO will be an integral component of the International Virtual Observatory IVO and has the following principal goals:

1. To provide the Russian astronomical community with convenient access to the world data grid.
2. To unite Russian and former Soviet Union (fSU) data, to provide them to the rest of the world and to integrate them into the IVO.
3. To use Russian instrumentation to provide observational data, in remote mode when needed.
4. To develop Russian electronic astronomical education resources.

The Centre for Astronomical Data (CAD) is responsible for the first two goals in the list. CAD is the national data centre and work in these directions has been carried out for many years. Activity directed to the first goal is plentiful: mirroring of the principal world databases, providing users with convenient links to Internet astronomical data resources, providing access to off-line astronomical resources, visualization and cross-identification of catalogues, review and expert evaluation of data sets etc.





There are about 30 astronomical institutes and organizations in Russia. Many of them maintain extensive data archives. We traditionally collect information about all available (both Russian and some fSU) resources and classify them. The list of Russian and fSU astronomical resources is compiled for the first time and will be kept up to date. One of our tasks is standardisation and unification of information on national resources, their rating and completing of a meta-database of Russian astronomical resources.

Special Astrophysical Observatory of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Astronomical Institute of the St-Petersburg State University contribute to the points 3 and 4, respectively, in the list of the principal goals of the RVO.