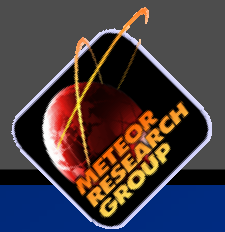


FireWorks – Fireball Database Workshop Summary

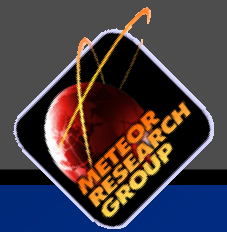
Thomas Grau, Martin Towner, Maria Gritsevich, Detlef Koschny, Apostolos Christou, Jeremie Vaubaillon, Anna Kartashova, Rainer Arlt, Felix Bettonvil, Suresh Bhattarai, Grigoris Maravelias, Galina Ryabova, Abedin Abedin, Bill Cooke, Francois Colas, Anastasios Margonis, Rishi Shah, Gerhard Drolshagen, David Asher, Mark Bailey, Geert Barentsen, R.V.Dabhade, Vaibhav Savant

FireWorks, Armagh, Northern Ireland, UK; 15/16 Sep 2010

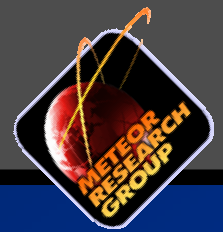


Goal of the meeting:

"To produce a first definition of the content of a fireball database and a form sheet to collect fireball information from the public and professionals".



- Presentations on fireball forms and experiences; what do users expect (public, amateur astronomers, meteorite hunters, modellers)
- Discussions on
 - Naming conventions
 - What data should we collect
 - Who should collect it – IMO or local groups (astronomy clubs, observatories)
 - How should we collect it



- Naming convention: IAU definition confirmed – a fireball is brighter than the brightest stars or planets (vague on purpose); no other special terms should be used (bolide, acoustic meteor, ...). Use qualifiers instead (e.g. ‘fireball with simultaneous noise’)
- It is recognised that to collect good data one needs to invest time => we need your support
- Data collection:
 - We need a simple form sheet for the public - no numbers. See e.g. ERFM webpage
 - IMO should collect fireball reports – they can be stored in the VMO, don't duplicate existing data tables (e.g. orbit table)
 - Must be globally searchable and include existing data
 - Collection both via local groups (observatories, astronomy clubs) and the IMO. Preferred: collection via local groups, in local language - they forward 'filtered' information to the IMO
 - We should provide tools and a software library which the local groups can use for putting up their own webpage
- (Fast) feedback to the observer and the local groups is very important
- Some funding could come from the NASA ‘participatory science programme’ or ESA’s SSA-NEO programme