

IRS 2008, Lille, France

Proposal

We are pleased to propose and host the next IRS at Lille, France, in August 2008, 20 years after the former IRS'88, already organized in this city. If our proposal is agreed, the Symposium will hold at the Grand Palais (Congress Hall), 1, Boulevard des Cités Unies, 59777 Lille-Euralille.

Motivation for the project

The LOA (Laboratoire d'Optique Atmosphérique) started its activity, after its foundation in the 60's by Pr Jacqueline Lenoble, with the study of radiative transfer applied to the atmospheres of the Earth and the planets, and supplying this study with tools such as the codes of numeric computation still widely used now. Since then, the scope of the activities of the Laboratory has greatly enlarged, especially in connection with the emergence and evolution of the Earth observing systems from space. Today, the interactions between radiation and aerosols, clouds and the surface, are investigated through numerous studies, mostly dedicated to climate and remote sensing, involving the creation of radiometric instruments (for UV, visible, NIR, TIR; for polarization) to be used from space, air and the surface; the implementation of airborne and ground-based field experiments, of networks for radiometric measurements; the development of methods of data processing, of retrieval algorithms and of softwares for image viewing and processing, in addition to the more usual computation tools.

This brief description shows that all the themes and methods of research at the LOA closely fit the IRC missions. It explains the interest shown by people, when the idea of Lille as the hosting city for the next IRS has been incidentally suggested. And it certainly explains for a part the fast and positive response I received, especially from my youngest colleagues, when I proposed the constitution of a group of volunteers to prepare the proposal. So this project is not only mine, it is backed by this working group (list in Annex A). It is also supported by Didier Tanré and Jacqueline Lenoble, current and former directors of the LOA.

Conference environment

Lille is located in the North of France, 15 km of the Belgian border. The city stands at the center of a European metropolis with 1,9 million inhabitants, including 700,000 in the bordering Belgian territory.

The city can be reached easily via a dense network of highways. Another possibility is to arrive at the airport and take a shuttle to reach the city center, 10 km from the airport. It is also possible to reach the city by rail using the high speed trains (300 km/h) : TGV from Paris (1h) and from Charles de Gaulle airport (45 min), Eurostar from London (1h40) and from Brussels (38min).

To move in the city is easy thanks to its public transports, including the subway (VAL), the tramway and the bus. A congress pass costs € 2 and provides unlimited access to the public transport for the whole period of the congress. It is also possible to rent a bicycle.

The Grand Palais is a conference and exhibition space, located in the city center, 10 min walking from the railway stations where are concentrated hotels and restaurants. The conference space is made up with 3 amphitheatres and 16 meeting rooms allowing plenary sessions of 500 people or more, and it is fitted with full multimedia equipment. The exhibition space is suitable for the posters presentation, the exhibition, the registration, information and welcome desk and the coffee breaks.

A number of sites and monuments are worth visiting at Lille. Walking in the Old Town, one can follow the history of Lille through the Palais Rohour, the Grand'Place, the Old Exchange, and the Rue Grande Chaussée. The Station Lille Flandres district is itself characteristic with its houses with triangular pinions typical of the Flemish architecture. The Citadel in form of five-point star was built by Vauban from 1667 to 1670. The Town Hall, with its belfry 104 m high was built from 1924 to 1932. The new district of Euraille, including the Grand Palais, was designed by reknown architects and inaugurated in 1994. Among the museums, the Palais des Beaux-Arts (Museum of Fine Arts) houses a superb 19th century building with prestigious collections (Rubens, Van Dyck, Goya, Delacroix, David, Courbet, Ingres, Géricault, etc...). The Museum of the Hospice Comtesse in the Old Town and the Lille Metropolitan Modern Art Museum at Villeneuve d'Ascq, are among several others worth visiting. Among the green areas are the Citadel Park, the Plant Garden, the Barbieux Park in Roubaix and the Héron Park at Villeneuve d'Ascq. One can attend cultural events at

the Opera, National Orchestra or the theatres of Lille, Roubaix, Tourcoing and Villeneuve d'Ascq. One can take a stroll in the pedestrian streets in Lille and do some shopping in the Euralille Shopping Center. Tours are also organised by the Lille Tourist Board on the previous basis. One day excursions can also be planned outside, for example to visit the marvellous Belgian town of Bruges, "the Venice of the North", 70 km from Lille.

Just some words about the climate: mid-latitude oceanic, in August sunny and rainy days often alternate so that both sunglasses and umbrella are useful. At noon, the monthly mean temperature is 23°C and the minimum (nighttime) monthly mean is 13°C.

Budget estimate

On the basis of the number of registrations at IRS 2000 and IRS 2004, a number of 500 looks realistic for IRS 2008 at Lille. A tentative budget has been established and is presented in Annex B. It involves full registration fees of € 300 (€ 50 for students and for accompanying persons). The full registration includes, in addition to the admittance to all oral and poster sessions, and coffee breaks, an opening reception and a banquet, the abstracts collection and the book (plus a CD) of the peer-reviewed proceedings.

So far from the contacts with our potential sponsors (mainly the University, the CNRS, the CNES and the Region) we have had oral engagements for financial or material support including the banquet and a part of the cost of the Grand Palais.

ANNEX A

The preliminary informations necessary to the preparation of the proposal have been collected by the following LOA scientists

Auriol Frédérique (CNRS, Eng.)

Brogniez Colette (Univ., Pr)

Chiapello Isabelle (CNRS, CR)

Labonotte Laurent (Univ., Pr. Ass.)

Legrand Michel* (Univ., Pr)

Léon Jean-François (CNRS, CR)

Parol Frédéric (Univ. Pr)

Riédi Jérôme (Univ. Pr. Ass.)

Vanhoutte Jean-Claude (ret., ex-CNRS, Eng.)

Verwaerde Christian (CNRS, Eng.)

* Initiator of the proposal, Professor of Physics at the University of Sciences and Technology of Lille (since 1993). Contributions to satellite, airborne and ground-based radiometry, including instrument developments, main applications in the TIR, to mineral dust remote sensing, and to modeling of radiative transfer and of mineral dust cycle.

ANNEX B

INCOME		
1. Registration	490 regist. (300€, 50€)	
Members (€ 300)	350X300	
Students/Develop. countries (€50)	70X50	
Accompanying persons (€50)	70X50	
SUB TOTAL REGISTR.		€112000
2. Sponsors		
USTL	10000	
CNRS/DR + SDU	20000	
Minist. de la Recherche	15000	
La Région	15000	
Ville de Lille	10000	
APIM	5000	
CNES	15000	
Météo France	5000	
CEA	2000	
ONERA	2000	
DGA	2000	
IAMAS (IRC)	5000	
CEE (Marie Curie)	5000	
Exhibition income	10000	
SUB TOTAL SPONSORS		€121000
TOTAL		€233000

SPENDING		
1. Secretariat & accountancy		30000
2. Travel support		20000
3. Publishing cost		30000
4. Exhibition cost		5000
5. Opening reception & banquet (350 p)		45000
6. Visits & excursions		5000
7. Location poster boards		6000
8. Personal expenses		40000
9. Conference cost includ. video, info. desk & breaks		40000
10. Posters, mail & website		6000
11. IRC award		3000
12. Réunion IRC meeting + dinner		3000
TOTAL		€ 233000

