

Working Group on Definition of Planet

CHAIR: Iwan P. Williams (UK)

MEMBERS: Edward L. G. Bowell (USA) Edward Tedesco (USA),
Guy J. Consolmagno (Vatican), Giovanni B. Valsecchi (Italy),
Bo Å Gustafson (USA), Ingrid Mann (Germany), Karen J. Meech
(USA) Michael F. A'Hearn (USA), Alan P. Boss (USA),
Dale P. Cruikshank (USA), Anny-Chantal Levasseur-Regourd
(France), Mikhail Marov (Russia), David Morrison (USA),
Chris Tinney (Australia), Brian Marsden (USA), Alan Stern (USA),
Jana Ticha (Czech Republic), and Kaare Askness (Norway)

Keywords. planets

1. Formation

The Working Group was formed at the request of the Board of Division III and approved by the IAU Executive committee in March 2004. This was in recognition of the fact that discoveries in the Trans Neptunian region were repeatedly raising the question of “what is a planet”. The task of the WG was to investigate the options available and give indications of the level of support and opposition for each if more than one option was emerging.

2. Report

In October 2005 the Working Group completed its deliberations and two possible options were transmitted to the IAU executive. The WG was thus terminated on that day.

Iwan P. Williams
Chair of the Working Group