

1 **- International Gravitational-Wave Observatory Network -**

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DRAFT: International Gravitational-wave Observatory Network (IGWN) Charter		
The IGWN Design Committee		

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4 WWW: <http://www.igwn.org/>

5 **1 Mission**

6 The IGWN is a self-governing consortium using gravitational-wave detectors to explore the fundamental
7 physics of gravity and observe the universe. The IGWN works toward this goal through development, com-
8 missioning and operation of the IGWN ground-based interferometric gravitational-wave detectors; through
9 the development and deployment of techniques for gravitational-wave observation; and through interpreta-
10 tion of gravitational-wave data. The IGWN enables collaboration through shared research and development
11 programs across the consortium.

12 **2 IGWN Responsibilities**

13 The IGWN has the following responsibilities:

- 14 • To establish and carry out the IGWN instrument science and technology development program.
- 15 • To carry out the scientific operations of the IGWN detectors.
- 16 • To establish and carry out the IGWN observational science program.
- 17 • To establish and carry out the IGWN communications and education programs with the purpose of
18 communicating IGWN’s activities and goals to the public and providing educational opportunities.
- 19 • To disseminate the results of the observational science and instrument science programs.
- 20 • To conduct regular internal evaluations of IGWN progress and make adjustments as necessary.

21 In support of the above activities, the IGWN works with stakeholder funding agencies on the level of effort
22 required to support the various elements of the research program, and presents the rationale for the program
23 before advisory, oversight, and review bodies concerned with IGWN.

24 **3 Organizational Structure of the IGWN**

25 Membership in the IGWN is by groups, affiliated with institutions, and led by Principal Investigators. The
26 Principal Investigators and Authorized Institutional Representatives will sign on to the IGWN Memorandum
27 of Understanding indicating agreement to abide by this Charter, the IGWN Bylaws, and other IGWN

28 policies. Observatory groups within IGWN have the ultimate responsibility for the design, construction,
29 operations, maintenance and upgrades of IGWN detectors and facilities. Each Observatory Group will be
30 led by a Director or equivalent. The IGWN Charter, Bylaws, and other policies will recognize the auton-
31 omy of each Observatory Group to be structured and operated as required by their funding agencies. Other
32 IGWN Groups contribute to the construction, operations, maintenance and upgrades of IGWN detectors as
33 identified in the IGWN work plan.

34 The responsibilities and rights of members and the IGWN organization are defined in the IGWN Bylaws.

35 The IGWN Board, composed of the Observatory Directors, the Spokesperson and Deputy Spokesper-
36 sons, oversees the strategic operations of the Consortium to achieve its goals and future plans, and is led by
37 the IGWN Board Chair who rotates annually between Directors. The roles and responsibilities of the IGWN
38 Board Chair are in the IGWN bylaws.

39 The IGWN Council, with representation drawn from IGWN Groups, sets IGWN scientific vision and
40 goals, establishes policies and procedures for management and oversight of IGWN and elects the Spokesper-
41 son. The Spokesperson leads IGWN and represents it to the outside world. The Council elects a Council
42 Chair who has the responsibility and authority to facilitate the governance process of the Council.

43 The IGWN Finance Committee is responsible for budgeting and financial planning, managing financial
44 contributions and payments, financial reporting, and financial oversight and risk management. The IGWN
45 Finance Committee reports to the IGWN Board. Budgets are endorsed by the IGWN Council.

46 The IGWN Agency Oversight Committee will consist of representatives from stakeholder funding agen-
47 cies. The Agency Oversight Committee will facilitate inter-agency cooperation to support and review IGWN
48 making recommendations to the IGWN Board as necessary. The Agency Oversight Committee is indepen-
49 dent of IGWN.

50 Adoption of changes to this Charter requires presentation of proposed changes in a duly called Council
51 meeting and approval by 2/3 of IGWN Council members voting, excluding abstentions.

52 **4 Acronyms**

53 **IGWN** International Gravitational-wave Observatory Network 1