Tenth IVS TOW (TOW2019)
Summary of participants' evaluation
Compiled by D. Behrend

Multiple "x"s indicate the number of people making the same comment.

1. Classes

Best:
- xxxxx VLBI Session Pre-checks and IVS Operations
- xxx Recovery from System Failures
- xxx Correlator Feedback
- xxx VLBI Data Acquisition
- xxx Pointing and Amplitude Calibration
- xxx Operational Use of Mark 6
- xx R2DBE Operations
- xx VLBI Basics
- xx DBBC3 Operations
- xx RFI Sources, Identification, Mitigation
- x Automated Pointing Models
- x Antenna Gain Calibration
- x Phase Cal Basics
- x FS Station Software Coding
- x Programming Station Code in C++
- x Station Monitoring with MAS
- x Time and Frequency in VLBI
- x Developments for VGOS at Yebes
- x FS classes
- xx All classes

Least:
- xx e-transfer Operations
- xx Science Overview
- x Pointing and Amplitude Calibration
- x VLBI Data Acquisition
- x System Monitoring using e-RemoteCtrl
- x Recovery from System Failures
- x Phase Cal Basics
- x DBBC2 Operations

2. Arrangements

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Web registration	11	7	.	.	
Hotel	11	5	1	.	
Food	10	8	.	.	
Class content	9	7	2	.	
Class assignment	7	8	3	.	
Other	4	1	.	.	(assistance on location,

coordination schedules)

3. Overall
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Liked best: xxxxx xxx meeting collaborators from stations and correlators
             xxxxx x meeting the people known by name only (face-to-face)
             xx hallway discussions based on classes
             xx getting a well balanced view of VLBI
             x comradery and networking
             x right level for my experience
             x VGOS-related and new technology classes
             x correlator feedback
             x learned a lot
             x warm atmosphere/welcome
             x hotel was great (location, quality)
             x food was great

Liked least: xx some groups didn't mingle with others
             xx jet lag
             x quick pace of some classes
             x busy slides with some content not addressed
             x lack of dedicated transport
             x having to teach a 3rd class, thus missing other classes
             x teachers' dinner is late and several hours after TOW close
             x couldn't take all classes I liked to attend
             x the chairs
             x coffee ran out
             x no complaints

Wanted but was not offered in a class:
- more classes for experienced operators
- a more basic VLBI science overview
- a better science presentation
- antenna mechanical structure (for VGOS)
- more VGOS related classes
- more classes about DBBCs and FlexBuff
- could offer a talk on combination prediction (N. Stamatakos)

Improvements for TOW2021:
- more hands-on experience (similar to VLBI Training School)
- hands-on and more basic failure recovery
- include more lab time with hands-on instrument demos
- reduce class length and have more hands-on components
- have more practical sessions or real-time examples
- do e-meetings for some classes (for folks that cannot travel)
- schedule similarly experienced people into same class
- many classes were at an introductory level
- start the registration sooner

- coupons for the hotel restaurant

Other comments:
- Very well-organized and well-run meeting.
- Great meeting, interesting talks, well organized. Thank you!
- Good amount of information exchange, but it felt like it was coming at us at an accelerated rate.
- The content of some presentations could be updated with more recent examples. Some content is illegible in class (small fonts, invisible colors).
- A dedicated correlation workshop (legacy S/X and VGOS) for data transfer, correlation, and fringe-fitting is needed.
- Many thanks to the teaching crew.
- Stay with this hotel; it's the best ever and an easy travel.
- Thanks to Heidi, Dirk and others for a great experience.
- Thanks for the organization. Great TOW!