

Apertif Participation and Data Usage Policy

Version 2.0, 15 February 2023

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe the policies applying to access and distribution of scientific data from Apertif. This policy is designed to promote the usage of Apertif data, both inside the Apertif team and to the general public, and to protect and generate a return on the investment of the individuals and organisations that have contributed to Apertif. This document describes the rights and responsibilities of Apertif team members. It also describes the levels of contribution associated with the levels of participation and the associated data access and usage policies. Policies described in this document supersede previously published participation and data usage policies.

1.2 Applicability

This policy applies to all scientific and calibration data generated by Apertif, regardless of where the data are hosted.

Portions of this policy can be overruled by Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with specific partners.

1.3 Oversight and final responsibility

The Apertif Publication Board (APB), on behalf of the ASTRON Management Team (MT), oversees the application of publication and data access policies for the Apertif surveys. The APB arbitrates where conflicts arise of authorships, data access or project definitions. Any issues that cannot be solved by the APB are escalated to the ASTRON MT. The terms of reference of the APB are described in a separate document.

1.4 Violations

If a user of Apertif data is found to be in violation of the policies described here, including the Code of Conduct in Sect. 8, the APB and the ASTRON Management Team (with the latter taking precedence over the former) will take appropriate action, up to and including the removal of all data rights and publication rights.

2. Levels of participation: definition and rights and responsibilities

2.2 Participant categories

This policy distinguishes between two categories of participants regarding data rights and responsibilities. Also see the Apertif Publication Policy documents for publication rights and responsibilities corresponding to these categories.

2.2.1 Apertif Team Members

Apertif Team members include the engineers, designers and scientists that have contributed significantly to the technical, organisational and scientific development of Apertif.

The APB will maintain a list of Apertif team members.

All Apertif team members have the right to propose science projects or papers that make use of proprietary Apertif data. The APB oversees the list of defined science projects and papers to prevent conflict among different participants. Where conflicts arise the APB is the arbiter.

Apertif team members have the responsibility to make sure that there is progress on all defined science papers and projects. If there is no progress, the APB may allow another (external) participant to work on that project.

An Apertif team member may sponsor an unlimited number of postdocs or other short-term staff and an unlimited number of graduate and undergraduate students.

An Apertif team member is responsible for making sure they and their sponsored researchers follow the Apertif Code of Conduct (Sect. 8).

In addition, Apertif team members have the right to be included as co-authors on data release and overview papers (see Apertif publication policy Sec 4.1).

2.2.2 External Collaborators

This category consists of researchers collaborating with Apertif Team members on specific papers. External Collaborators may be proposed by Apertif Team members, or they may contact the APB directly with a proposed project. Generally these projects should be limited in scope and should involve contributions not available within the Apertif team.

External collaborators should identify a liaison within the Apertif Team who is responsible for ensuring Apertif policy is followed. The APB may help find a liaison.

External Collaborators are restricted to the Apertif data for which they have been proposed and will typically participate in only one or two papers or projects. External participants have the responsibility to ensure progress on defined projects or papers, or the APB may allow the work to be done by another participant or collaborator. External participants may sponsor a limited number of postdocs or graduate students and an unlimited number of undergraduate students. Typically, one postdoc or graduate student may be sponsored per defined science project or paper.

External participants must follow the Code of Conduct (Sect. 8) and ensure all their sponsored researchers do the same. MoUs may overrule external participation rules, after agreement of the APB.

A list of External Collaborators and their associated project(s) will be maintained on the Apertif Publication Wiki.

3. Data Ownership

Apertif data (as defined in Sect. 4) are owned by ASTRON and held in trust for the APB during the proprietary period (as defined in Sect. 6).

4. Data categories

There are two types of Apertif data considered by this policy:

4.1 Calibration data

Apertif calibration data includes any data collected by the Apertif instrument, whether taken by the instrument on the telescope or in the laboratory, for purposes of calibrating Apertif survey data.

4.2 Survey data

Apertif survey data includes all science data produced during the Apertif projects. This includes raw data (calibrated and uncalibrated) and science-ready data products. These include data cubes, mosaics and moment maps for the imaging surveys and, for the time domain survey, time-series data at native time resolution toward known sources and new detections, and at down-sampled resolution for the rest of the sky; plus VOEvents.

5. Data rights per Apertif Participant Category

This document and the Apertif Publication Policy distinguish between two participant categories: Apertif Team members and External Collaborators. For the purposes of the data rights, we add a third category, External Users, who are users of ALTA but do not fall into the other two categories.

5.1 Apertif Team Members

Apertif Team members have rights to access, scientifically exploit, and publish any and all Apertif data before public release (Section 6), under the rules specified in the Apertif Publication Policy.

5.2 External Collaborators

External Collaborators have rights to access, scientifically exploit, and publish Apertif data before public release only for Apertif data associated with those projects and papers with which they are associated, under the rules specified in the Apertif Publication Policy.

5.3 External Users

External users only have access and exploitation rights to Apertif data that have been publicly released and no access to any proprietary Apertif data.

6. Proprietary periods and data release schedule for Apertif data (32-month survey)

6.1 Apertif Survey Data

All Apertif data listed in Section 4.1, as well as derived, higher-order data (covered in Section 7 below), are proprietary under the considerations described in Section 4 up to the data release dates specified in the following table, which covers the 1 July 2019 – 28 Feb 2022 survey period.

<i>Release date</i>	<i>Coverage of survey data in data release</i>
<i>November 2020</i>	Science quality data up to December 31, 2019.
<i>March 2022</i>	All system data is considered public with the end of the survey observing
<i>December 2023</i>	All survey data, with initial Apercal processing for imaging

7. Data policy for contributed data products

Higher-order contributed data products are any products derived from the standard survey products. Higher-order products must be uploaded to ALTA before submission of any paper presenting or containing any or all of the data in that product. Higher-order products will be proprietary for up to 12 months or until the moment of publication of a paper containing these products, whichever comes first.

Publication of higher-order data products data falls under the Apertif Publication Policy.

8. Code of conduct

8.1 Professional Conduct

The Apertif Team and ASTRON are committed to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, race, age, political opinion or religion. Harassment in any form is not tolerated. All communication should be appropriate for a professional audience including people of many different backgrounds. Sexual language and imagery should not be used at any time. This applies to presentations and posters at conferences and in meetings, but also to general conduct. Be kind to others. Do not insult or put down others. Behave

professionally. Remember that harassment and sexist, racist, or exclusionary jokes are not appropriate.

8.2 Data access

All Apertif team members and external collaborators agree to only access data for science projects approved by the APB.

8.3 Publications All Apertif participants (team members and external collaborators) agree to abide by the Apertif publication policy.

8.4 Scientific conduct All Apertif participants (team members and external collaborators) agree to adhere to the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (<https://doi.org/10.17026/dans-2cj-nvwu>) which is based on the principles of honesty, scrupulousness, transparency, independence, and responsibility.