

50th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI) –  
The Next Steps (A4)  
SETI 2: SETI and Society (2)

Author: Dr. Claudio Maccone  
International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica (INAF), Italy

THE NEED FOR A WORLDWIDE AND INTERNATIONAL SETI JOURNAL

**Abstract**

Acta Astronautica, the official journal of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), has also been the preferred journal for SETI-related papers since 1971, when the IAA established the IAA SETI Committee. And, in those 50 years, SETI research grew steadily from a murky sub-field of Astronomy to a self-sufficient branch of science resting on Radio Astronomy, Optical and Cherenkov Astronomy, Astrobiology and “even” the Social Sciences.

This author had preliminary conversations about possibly establishing a SETI Journal a few years ago with the Acta Astronautical Publisher, Elsevier. The Elsevier answer was a “No” justified by the small numbers of readers that SETI articles would have worldwide. So, intending SETI authors kept on submitting their Abstracts to Acta Astronautica.

Yet, this author feels that the problem exists. In fact:

1) In recent years more and more SETI scientists had their SETI Abstracts REJECTED by Acta Astronautica, often even without a preliminary discussion with Acta Astronautica Reviewers.

2) SETI scientists are not just astrophysicists, astrobiologists and space scientists. Often they come from the Social Sciences and concern themselves with the social impact that the discovery of an Alien Civilization would have on Humankind.

3) Finally, it's high time for at least a few of the SETI scientists and supporters to become “politicians”, meaning that, as of 2021, the actual Political Leaders of the most advanced Countries on Earth seem to be totally unprepared to face a possible “SETI Crisis” in case of a Contact.

In this paper we ponder over the opportunities of establishing the first SETI Journal capable of preparing Humanity for Contact.