Abstract for session S06: Gemini - Collaborations Pro-Amateurs

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Title: Ensuring the accessibility of Virtual Observatory tools for the amateurs through Interoperability

Abstract: Within our goal to ensure that amateur astronomers can access Virtual Observatory (VO) tools, we describe significant advancements in the interoperability of VO tools via the SAMP protocol which we carried out over the past year. We incorporate stellar and extragalactic transients, reported in Astro-Colibri, which are now observed by amateur astronomers within the PRO-AM RAPAS framework. We also include exoplanet transit events from the ExoClocks initiative, enabling more precise observations and analyses. In addition, we now make available VO subcatalogues tailored to astrometric and photometric acquisition fields. These developments show that the inclusion of VO standards in the tools used by amateur astronomers not only expands the accessibility of professional tools but, more importantly, allows amateur astronomers to use, in a simple way, state-of-the-art tools to enable them to boost their contributions to astronomical research.