

## **Professor Michael F. Bode, BSc(Hons), PhD, FRAS, CPhys, FInstP**

**Mike Bode** is Special Representative of the European Astronomical Society to the EU in Brussels. He retired in 2015 as Professor of Astrophysics at Liverpool John Moores University where he was the founding Director of the LJMU Astrophysics Research Institute. The LJMU ARI now comprises over 80 staff and research students.

He gained his BSc in Physics at Leeds University and PhD in Astrophysics at the University of Keele and has held positions at Keele University, Los Alamos National Laboratory (US), the University of Manchester and the University of Central Lancashire. Mike is a past Vice President and Secretary of the Royal Astronomical Society, and was re-elected to the RAS Council in 2015 for a 3 year term. He has chaired many UK Research Council committees in astronomy, both national and international. These include the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) Grants Panel, the Steering Committees of the MERLIN radio telescope project, centred around Jodrell Bank, and that of the UK-Netherlands Isaac Newton Group of optical telescopes on La Palma in the Canaries, plus most recently the STFC Advisory Panel on Science in Society. He served on the Science Board of STFC, the Research Council's top peer review panel, from 2009-2011 and has recently acted as a member of the European Research Council's Advanced Grants Panel in Brussels.

His research work focuses on furthering our understanding of exploding stars and he has held both Advanced and Senior Fellowships of the UK Research Councils. He has published over 240 papers in the top peer-reviewed international journals in astronomy, including 14 Nature Letters, and edited 5 books. He has given many public talks on his areas of expertise and appeared regularly on BBC TV's 'Sky at Night' for example.

At LJMU, after founding in 1992 what became the Astrophysics Research Institute, and serving a term as the University's Director of Research, he pioneered and headed the ERDF-funded New Generation Astronomical Telescopes Project. This entailed the development of the world's largest robotic telescopes and the foundation of the company that designed and built them for export around the globe. A direct spin-off has been the National Schools' Observatory (NSO) project whose Board he chairs. The NSO currently gives access to over 2000 schools across Britain to the fully robotic Liverpool Telescope in the Canaries, alongside its primary use by the international research community. In 2005, the University was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for the work of the Astrophysics Research Institute, led by Mike, in the development and use of large robotic telescopes. Mike has been a participant in the Royal Society's MP-Scientist pairing scheme in the UK Parliament and was an expert witness in 2011, appearing in front of the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee as part of their inquiry into astronomy and particle physics. Among his other awards, in 2016 he was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Medal for his outstanding work in outreach for LJMU.

On behalf of all the major astronomy funding bodies and other coordinating organisations in Europe, including the European Space Agency, he led the development of the ASTRONET Roadmap. Published in late 2008, the Roadmap is a strategic plan for European astronomy with a 20 year horizon, and covers all major ground and space-based facilities with a significant European contribution. This is the first time such a plan has been formulated on a Europe-wide scale.

In terms of his current international responsibilities, Mike was appointed Special Representative of the European Astronomical Society to Brussels in June 2017, having completed a 4 year term as a member of the EAS Council in 2016. Additionally, he is continuing to assist Thailand in its rapid development of astronomical capability and chairs the International Scientific Advisory Committee of the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand. He also sits on the Scientific Council of the French Government's 'P2IO Laboratoire d'Excellence' in Paris, and is a member of the International Advisory Committee of the Institute of Space Sciences (IEEC), Barcelona. In October 2017 he will take up a 6 month Visiting Professorship at the Botswana International University of Science and Technology working with BIUST and the Botswana Ministry of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology to help to establish astronomy in the country (with particular emphasis on the Square Kilometre Array project).