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**THE LUNAR SETI COSMIC STUDY OF IAA:
CURRENT STATUS AND PERSPECTIVES**

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The late French astronomer Jean Heidmann (1923-2000) was among the most distinguished supporters of SETI in the last decade. In particular, since 1992 he strongly advocated the use of the Saha crater, located on the far side of the Moon, as the best available place to operate a radiotelescope for radioastronomical and SETI searches in an environment totally free from Radio Frequency Interference (RFI). In 1998 the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) assigned Jean Heidmann the task of coordinating an IAA Cosmic Study titled "Lunar SETI Cosmic Study" and intended to point out the fundamental problems in the space sciences that positioning and operating a radiotelescope inside the Saha crater would originate. Jean Heidmann, however, untimely passed away on July 3rd, 2000, leaving the Cosmic Study undone. Subsequently, at the 51st International Astronautical Congress held in Rio de Janeiro October 2-6, 2000, the Academy decided to assign the task of completing the Lunar SETI Cosmic Study to the person writing these lines. In this paper the current status of the Lunar SETI Cosmic Study is described and the perspectives for completing it in a relatively short time are pointed out. It is believed that this Cosmic Study not only will pave the way for using the RFI-free far side of the Moon to the benefit of radioastronomy and SETI, but it will also try to provide suggestions for the basic issue of protecting such a unique environment from the RFI that would inevitably be produced by the commercial exploitation of the Moon.