

The Contact Initiative

A Proposal To Contact UFOs/UAPs by Radio

Keywords: crowdsourced, automated alert system, distributed, public and specialized observers, smartphone app, passive radar operators, proactive HAM radio operators, gigapixel camera operators, megapixel telescope operators, CETI, METI, SETI

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1. INTRODUCTION

After more than 70 years the US Government recently confirmed the existence of UAPs/UFOs. There is a possibility that some of these objects or phenomena are not of earthly origin. To find out where they are from we want to try and talk to them by radio,

The Contact Initiative (CI) believes that UAPs/UFO's are under the control of some form of intelligence and non-hostile.

SETI has been trying for decades to find signals of alien radio communications by pointing radio telescopes often at random at nearby stars in the hope that they may harbour intelligent life.

SETI faces three difficulties:

1. It has to find a planet that is populated by intelligent life
2. The alien life must be using radio waves to communicate
3. Any alien signals detected will be decades or centuries old and will take twice that time for a reply. (If we receive a message from ET in 25 light years distance, and we respond with a message immediately, then it will take 25 years to send signals to ET and another 25 years before we can hear a response. Hence, a human lifetime of 75 years will have passed.)

Point three shows the difficulty of trying to use radio waves for interstellar communications. Very often the participants of such a communication die of old age before they have even exchanged first welcomes..

In the movie "Contact" Carl Sagan tried to circumvent this inconvenience by speculating that ET could send instructions for a wormhole transporter that doesn't rely on slow radio waves.

Even in the idealized world of the Hollywood movie "Contact" this approach didn't prove the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence to all sceptics, because the resulting exchange between

human and ETI left no convincing physical evidence.

The premise of SETI, the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, is that we are not alone in the universe and that Alien life somewhere has developed radio technology just like us.

We expect the Aliens to be friendly or at least impartial to our existence. That is by no means a certainty, looking at the example of our own species.

The Contact Initiative (CI) has as its goal to implement “active SETI”, or ‘CETI’ as it is known (communication with extraterrestrial intelligence).

2. IS ALIEN CONTACT A GOOD IDEA?

It was in 2015 that scientists Douglas Vakoch, David Grinspoon, David Brin, Seth Shostak and others discussed this issue at the American Association for the Advancement Of Science (AAAS): is it a good idea to transmit messages to possible intelligent extraterrestrials in the Cosmos? (https://setiathome.berkeley.edu/meti_statement_0.html)

Within a week of this discussion a statement was signed and released, together with 24 other SETI experts, declaring that a “worldwide scientific, political and humanitarian discussion must occur before any message is sent”.

When the statement was signed, SETI by radio telescopes was humanity's best hope to contact Aliens. A then 68 year old phenomenon called “UFOs” was known about at the time of the statement in 2015.

Some people have always “believed” that UFOs are somehow connected to extraterrestrial intelligence. Those people were not necessarily represented at the AAAS conference in 2015.

3. A BIT OF UFO HISTORY

It's been 74 years since the first widely publicized UFO encounter of Kenneth Arnold in 1947, who coined the term “flying saucer” when he saw nine objects skipping along the sky from his plane. Since then there have been tens of thousands reported unidentified flying objects in the Earth's skies, some of them even similar in shape to Arnold's sighting.

Countless theories about the origin and purpose of these phenomena exist. UFOs were a subject of public interest and regularly reported in the media until the end of the 1960's .

After the moon landing, sceptical scientists who questioned the alien origin of Flying Saucers won the scientific debate, relegating believers of the extraterrestrial hypothesis to fringe status.

This pretty much ended serious mainstream media coverage of UFOs. The mantra became that ‘extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence’, a phrase known as ‘The Sagan Standard’.

To find extraordinary evidence for the existence of technologically intelligent aliens, lacking suitable specimens for testing, Sagan proposed instead to search for their signals in the sky with radio telescopes, a concept he illustrated in his movie “Contact”, which had its premiere in

1997.

Two years after the premiere of “Contact” the University of Berkeley made it possible for anyone with a computer to join in the search for alien signals, when they launched the seti@home screensaver.

165000 people seized the opportunity to find ET on their computer, taking part in the largest participatory computing project in history. I was one of the first to sign up, on the 16th of May 1999. Sadly, seti@home stopped processing new data on March 31 2020. No announcement had been made whether or not it had been successful in its mission: to find radio evidence for extraterrestrial life.

The next month, on the 27th of April 2020, 73 years after the first widely documented flying saucer sighting, the Pentagon publicly acknowledged the existence of UFOs, supplying pilots testimony, audio- and video recordings.

By now the UFO phenomenon had been so thoroughly discredited that sceptics quickly began questioning the Pentagon's UAP material. However, the material didn't just consist of fuzzy camera footage, but also positive radar traces and simultaneous sightings by several pilots and personnel.

4. WHAT IS A UFO?

It isn't clear if UAPs are the product of human or non-human technology. It is only by their shape and fantastic alien flight characteristics that a non-human origin can be inferred. Human planes can not make 90° hairpin turns or accelerate from zero to hypersonic in the fraction of a second.

The majority of the public believes that other intelligent life in the cosmos exists and that we are not the only species inhabiting the Universe. This concept was popularized in the TV show “Cosmos” by exobiologist Carl Sagan and is held to be true in the general consensus.

People who believe that humanity plays a more special role in the cosmos (anthropocentrists) do think that UFOs come from our own future, instead from alien worlds. They cite the large distances between solar systems as an obstacle for interplanetary spacecraft to make contact.

Some people think that it would be easier to build a time machine than a faster than light spacecraft. Otoh, with a time machine, superluminal flight would be easy. Just slow down the clock dial whilst maintaining forward momentum and viola!, speed is increased.

Superluminal flight implies time travel, according to Einstein's theory of relativity. Time slows down progressively the more one approaches the speed of light. And should one travel in excess of light speed, then time begins running backwards. That follows from the theory and mathematics of relativity, which does not consider time paradoxes. It's just numbers.

Professor of anthropology Dr. Michael Paul Masters is one of the proponents of the time travel theory. He explained it in more detail in his book “Identified Flying Objects” calling the time

travelling occupants of these craft “extraterrestrials”.

I believe that it’s a definitive possibility that some UFOs do come from our own future. Yet the **infinity of possible futures in time** means that SOME UFOs will also come from other worlds, even if it’s just our mutated time-traveling offspring from thousands of years into the future visiting their ancestral home planet.

5. HOW TO OVERCOME THE ‘LIGHT BARRIER’

The key to interplanetary travel are solitons: a **soliton warp bubble** may be made from plasma, thereby warping space itself. A soliton warp bubble is a solitary complex wave, a self-reinforcing wave packet that maintains its shape while propagating at a constant velocity.

This concept known as ‘warp drive’ makes it possible to break the light barrier without violating general relativity. It would be easy to bridge the chasm between the worlds of different solar systems and galaxies when one travels at hyperspeed.

Miguel Alcubierre was the first theoretical physicist who tackled the problem of FTL travel in the year 1994. The metrics he laid out were all very logical and did fit within the framework of general relativity, but they called for an unknown exotic form of energy to work.

Then, in March 9 2021, Dr. Erik Lentz published his “**solution to warp field equations for positive energy**”. He’s achieved a theoretical breakthrough because his approach uses **positive energy** instead of non-existent **negative energy**. FTL travel is now a little more science and less fiction.

6. HUMAN PROGRESS

It’s only been 118 years since 1903, when humans launched their first powered flight near Kitty Hawk. 1947 Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier. In 1969 we landed on our nearest cosmic neighbor, a moon which we fittingly named “Moon” and in 1977 Voyager 1 was launched, Earth’s first interstellar space probe.

We are just at the beginning of research into superluminal travel. But imagine what a species only 100 or 500 years more advanced than us might be able to do. What kind of propulsion would advanced ETI be using in their hypothetical interstellar spacecraft?

Is it theoretically possible to travel at hyperspeed? The answer is now: yes!

7. WHY UFOs/UAPs?

Would ETI use radio waves moving at the speed of light to seek contact if there was an alternative? Natural communication between species using conventional radio is almost impossible over interstellar distances.

As ‘natural communication’ I describe an exchange of ideas where the sender can expect a reply before he’s died from old age...

Is there any hint that extraterrestrial intelligence ever used “spacecraft unknown to humanity” to visit Earth, maybe to seek contact?

UFO sightings are understood by the Contact Initiative as possible signs of extraterrestrial technology. These sightings are fairly abundant.

SETI, by contrast, has not found any techno signatures of verified alien origin despite over 50 years of searching. Has SETI not been successful because it has looked for ET in the wrong places?

The Contact Initiative believes that there is a reasonably good chance for an UFO/ET connection to exist. Superluminal spacecraft are the easiest way to contact civilisations that have not developed superluminal communication technology, such as Earth.

8. CHANCES OF CONTACTING UFOs/UAPs

Based on personal experience the author of the “Contact Initiative” estimates the chance to spot an UFO/UAP in any one day to be 1:10.000. One may have a chance to take pictures or video of an UFO once every 50 years, as I did in 1995.

More impartial data than personal experience about the frequency of sightings comes from surveys. There are not a lot of surveys on the subject of UFO/UAP. More surveys should be carried out.

But there is one survey from Century Fox Home Entertainment. They did a poll for a promotional campaign for the Ridley Scott movie “Phoenix Forgotten”.

The “Phoenix Forgotten” plot was inspired by the “Phoenix Lights” UFO phenomenon from 1997. Over 1700 Americans were asked if they had ever seen an UFO and 16.74% responded positively.

If that percentage is any guideline, then we can say that 16.74% of 258.3 million adults, about 43 million Americans had a UFO sighting.

MISIDENTIFICATION OF UFOs

According to author Leslie Kean, “roughly 90 to 95 percent of UFO sightings can be explained”. That is actually a low estimate.

The chief investigator of CUFOS in 1979, astronomer Allan Hendry, concluded from 1307 cases that 91.4% had a clear and simple prosaic explanation. 8.6% were classed as “UFOs” and 1.5% of those cases had no possible plausible explanation.

This leaves us with 645,000 unexplained sightings from 43 million, covering a time-span of 38.4 years, it being the median age of the US population (Ref.: 7).

When there are 645,000 completely unexplained UAP sightings in 38.4 years, we get 16,796 (sixteen thousand seven hundred ninety six) sightings per year. That’s 46 UAP cases without possible plausible explanation DAILY in the USA.

I believe this to be a fairly high number.

The Contact Initiative doesn't want to wait around to get results. To maximize the chances of spotting UAP/UFO a large number of volunteer UFO/UAP spotters are needed.

And the method of spotting and forwarding a report of a sighting must be as simple as taking a photo or video.

The "CONTACT APP" (name may be changed) will be designed for this purpose, to be as simple as possible. But it will be the most powerful civilian use flying object identification program on the market.

One of its appeals will be that it provides near instantaneous identification of objects and phenomena commonly mistaken as UFOs: celestial objects, meteors, planes, blimps, military training exercises, satellites. The app gives feedback to the UFO spotter if what he/she saw is a known phenomenon.

The app records with high accuracy the position and time of the sightings and the number of users who see the same thing.

POSSIBLE UAP/UFO YIELD PER MILLION APP DOWNLOADS

If the Contact app is downloaded 1.000.000 million times, then the chances are that we will see 65 UAP cases without possible plausible explanation in a year.

That amounts to a bit more than one really, really, puzzling UFO case per week. This should be enough to engage and keep the attention of the public. Because, what good would be an UFO app that doesn't spot UFOs?

PEACE OF MIND

On the other hand, incorrect identifications of common or explicable phenomena as UFOs should become less with the Contact App. This way the great majority of witnesses would feel less stress.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE

A large number of participants serves to raise the awareness of the possibility of Extraterrestrial Contact. What does it mean to be a part of a greater community of diverse intelligences in the Cosmos?

GOAL OF THE CONTACT INITIATIVE (CONTACT PROJECT)

The goal is to prepare for and meet a technological superior non-human species. That we're not the most advanced technological species in the Universe is logical:

THE SAGAN

The Universe is billions and billions of years old. In it there are billions and billions of habitable planets. Modern human technology only exists since a few hundred years and we left the stone age just about 5000 years ago.

The development of life and intelligence is most likely not a one-time miracle confined to an infinitesimal speck of the Cosmos, the Earth.

BENEFITS OF FRIENDS

The potential benefits of contact to an advanced intelligent extraterrestrial species are incalculable to the future and destiny of the human race.

It may be that we don't have much in common with each other except curiosity. But that alone would be a driving force of human determination and progress, geared at finding out more about the other.

Should it turn out that UAP/UFOs are otherworldly emissaries of non-friendly intent, then it would also be important to find out. It could be fatal to stick our collective heads into the sand.

These are the reasons why the Contact Initiative proposes to contact "UFO sightings in progress" by radio waves.

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9. DESCRIPTION OF THE "CONTACT PROJECT APP"

Designations:

An app based UFO/UAP real time reporting tool and alert system is envisaged, called the "**CONTACT PROJECT APP**". Every user who downloads it is a "Search partner".

Search partners can be anyone with a smartphone, radio operators, videographers, gigapixel camera operators, Unistellar telescope operators and (passive) radar operators, which are a subset of radio HAM enthusiasts.

The “**CONTACT PROJECT APP**” app has two modes of operation: ALERT and CONTACT.

App users that report a sighting shall be called **Alerters**.

HAM radio and other operators that are sent the coordinates of the UFO shall be called **Contacters**.

What happens if in the ALERTER mode of the CONTACT app an UFO is spotted

The user who sees the object/phenomenon presses the “UFO sighting in progress” button of the CONTACT app.

(The user can also try to take snapshots or video of the UFO sighting with their smartphone. This provides real time additional data: the smartphone's gravity sensors record the elevation and its magnetic compass records the azimuth.)

The app immediately uploads the timestamp and GPS coordinates of the sighting to an “Identified Flying Object server”.

This “Identified Flying Object server” parses GPS and time data (and available elevation and azimuth) and then accesses an astronomical real-time database, the NORAD database and air traffic databases to identify known flying objects near that location, such as planes and satellites. Secret military projects are excluded via NORAD TLEs.

If the object is not identified,

it becomes a “prospective UAP” (PUAP). Its GPS coordinates and other data are forwarded as an **ALERT** to close-by **Contacters** using the same Contact app, to be investigated in more detail.

Contacters are selected based on their vicinity to the GPS coordinates of the sighting and their hardware/qualifications/experience. The contacters may be HAM radio operators and others (search partners with CB / HD camera / HD video / telescope / radar).

Should the same PUAP be reported multiple times at different locations a trajectory can be computed and search partners will be notified in advance of a possible PUAP arrival.

Users that spot the PUAP can fill out a standard UFO sighting questionnaire and/or supply more detailed reports that will be attached to the alert.

The presence of a non-identified flying object has now been broadcast to users of the CONTACT app in the vicinity of the UFO sighting via multiple routes (SMS, EMAIL, POP-UP APP NOTIFICATION).

Alerted by this notification:

HAM RADIO OPERATORS will be listening for incoming broadcasts from the sighting using multiband radio frequency scanners. Should the sighting be a remote controlled drone it would be identified now via the unique drone radio frequency signature.

If the PUAP is a viable UFO and not a drone then HAM operators will attempt to make contact using a variety of radio bands. A pre-recorded message or data burst transmission may be broadcast towards the UFO.

TELESCOPE AND CAMERA OPERATORS

Other search partners may try to use the information to get radar or visual confirmation via HD cameras or automatic telescopes (for instance UNISTELLAR / VAONIS STELLINA).

(PASSIVE) RADAR OPERATORS

A special field of amateur HAM radio is the analysis of passive radar data, often to observe meteor tracks. Sometimes unexplained tracks are recorded, showing flight maneuvers of objects at right angles. In case of these anomalous sightings an **ALERT** can be triggered with the aim of visual confirmation and radio contact.

VISUAL OBSERVERS

Any search partner who can verify the sighting by eye sight using the CONTACT APP provides continuing real time data to the sighting in progress.

The CONTACT INITIATIVE effort may be coordinated via the members of SETI Institute / SETI LEAGUE / MUFON / HAM and other organized networks.

All who download the app can make UFO reports.

A sighting by a single person is less convincing than an event that many witnesses report from a distance to each other.

An AI algorithm will analyze live reports coming in in real time to determine if multiple witnesses are reporting on the same thing. This takes into account the position and possible flightpath of an object.

To motivate the public to take part in this search, prizes can be given for successful detections of UAPs, staggered by evidence weight:

less important:

1. confirmed UAP pictures, 2. video, 3. radar images,

more important:

4. reception of radio emissions, 5. verifiable conversation with ETI (CETI), 6. physical alien artifact, 7. actual landing of UAP with ETI.

Alternative to cash prizes, credits may be given, they could be collectible non-fungible tokens (NFT's), whose value is based on their desirability.

The whole endeavor (and prize money) will be funded by private enterprise through the "Alien Marketplace" advertising space. This marketplace is accessed through the Contact app. To filter out fakes and false identifications AI algorithms and volunteers evaluate the results. The volunteers may be paid cash or NFT tokens that can be traded on the Alien Marketplace.

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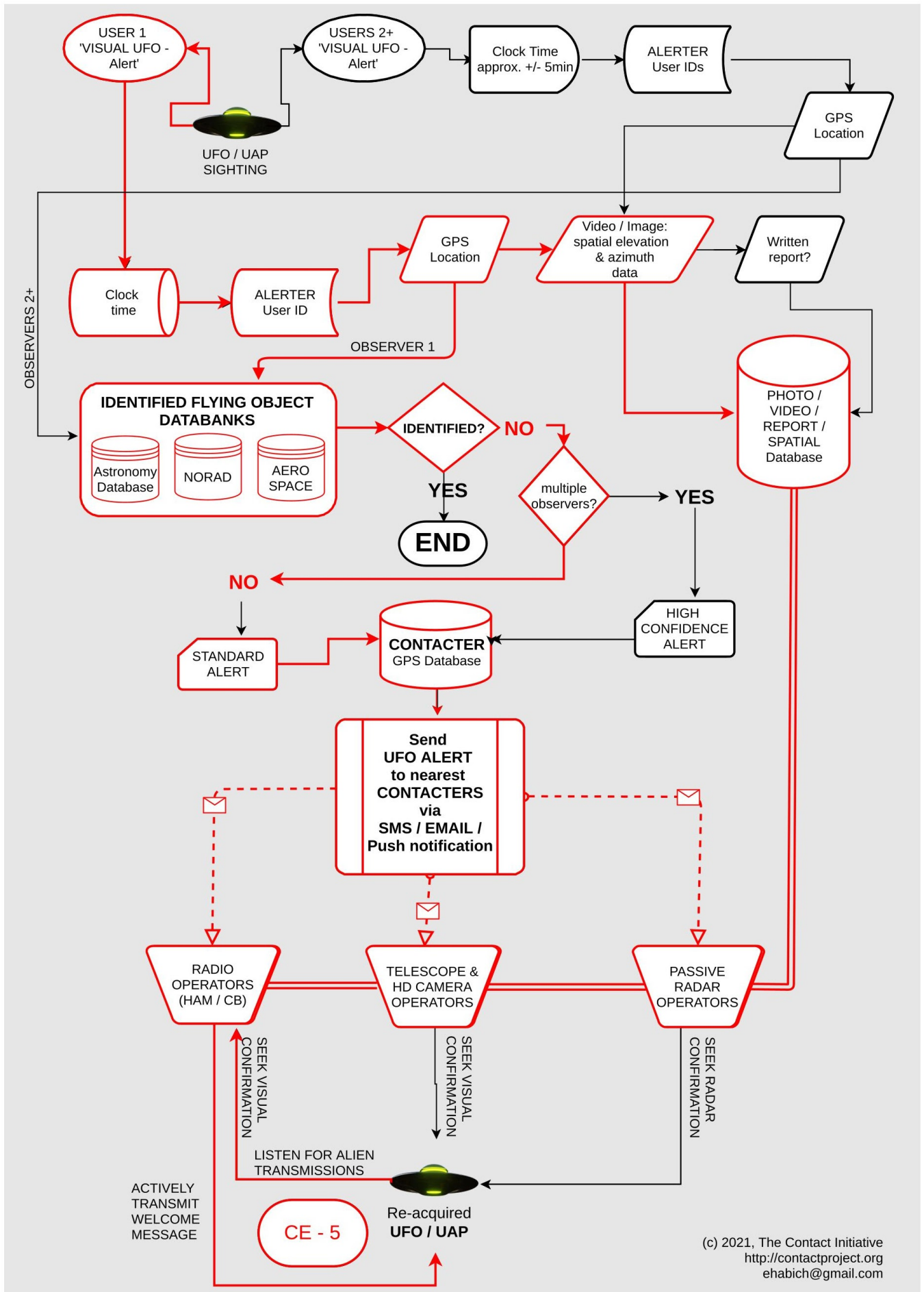
The app and the Contact Project Organization itself may be financed by advertisements in the APP, which sell on the ALIEN MARKETPLACE.

A 'jackpot' cash prize will go to the first person to report an UFO/UAP that makes contact. Lesser prizes are for genuine UFO reports, verified unidentified flying objects without explanation.

A credit system of some sort or a cash prize should be instituted to motivate the participants. False reports are penalized by subtracting from the prospective "jackpot" money of the participant.

Examples for advertisements on the ALIEN MARKETPLACE are any products of interest to UFO, SCI-FI and Fantasy fans, as well as the general population.

CONTACT APP FLOWCHART



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