

OPTICON Executive Committee 6

Meeting held at Royal Observatory Edinburgh

23 June 2006

Present:			
G Gilmore (Chair)	UCAM	R Gilzmozzi	ESO
J Andersen	NOTSA	R Gredel	MPIA
P Benvenuti	INAF	S Howard (minutes)	UCAM
J Bergeron	IAP	S. Lilly	SANW
W Boland	NOVA	B Nordstrom	EAS
J-G Cuby	LAM	A Omont	INSU
J Davies	UK ATC/ OPTICON Project Scientist	R Rebolo	IAC
M Dennefeld	IAP/ Access Review	J Seiradakis	GNCA
		R Sirey	PPARC
Apologies:			
G Monnet	ESO	O. von der Luehe	KIS

All presentations can be found on the OPTICON website.

This Executive meeting was a 'follow-on' from the OPTICON FP7 planning meeting, to discuss further strategies and to consider the FP7 proposal process.

OPTICON in FP7 must include the three basic features which are in place now, an access program, networking activities to strengthen the community, and technology development to enhance existing telescopes and prepare for the next generation E-ELT. These activities must be consistent with and complementary to the FP7 E-ELT design study.

Advice from the EC is that the likely FP7 budget will be no greater than it is under FP6. The current timetable expects an I3 call in late 2007, with a design study call for the E-ELT in early 2007. Thus outline selection of the OPTICON FP7 participation by late 2006 is ideal, leaving early 2007 to develop partnerships and funding, consistent with the E-ELT design study.

The presentations outlining proposed parts of an FP7 were related to these requirements, mostly being developments of existing FP6 activities. Preliminary reaction is that some would benefit from wider community participation (e.g. adaptive optics), some might be rationalised into clearer priorities (e.g. detector developments), while some could be less centrally organised (e.g. instrument technologies). Some network proposals were clearly very preliminary (e.g. next generation software), others represented the result of careful planning by a responsible and representative community (E-ELT science case, solar astronomy, interferometry, UV astronomy).

Action 1: *GG to provide informal feedback as summarised above to Edinburgh presenters*

Members of the executive emphasised the importance of an FP7 program with the widest feasible community involvement, consistent with plausible budgets, management realities, and AstroNet/ESO strategic planning goals.

Action 2: *GG to draft a call for letters of intent to participate in OPTICON FP7. This is to be circulated in their communities by the OPTICON member funding agencies, and by the OPTICON admin to other EC countries.*

When responses to this call are received, the OPTICON executive will consider any responses, in addition to the proposals available from the Edinburgh meeting, to select programs and participants which can be developed into the FP7 proposal. If necessary a technical and scientific review will be requested. As for previous OPTICON proposals, the funding agencies providing the matching funds and strategic overview will make up the executive making the decisions. If proposals require it, new agency representatives can be co-opted onto the OPTICON Executive. The selected programs must be consistent with the intended FP7 E-ELT Design Study proposal.

Action 3: *GG/ JKD to speak to Preben Grosbøl re: FASA.*

Action 4: *Executive meeting to be held in early October to consider the FP7 program, on Monday 9 October.*