OPTICON in FP7

Existing contract 2009-2012

Total 10 Meuro

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End of Existing Contract

- Contract ends 31/12/2012.
- Form C, final report, deliverables due ASAP after that
- Final cash distribution -Autumn 2013?

Mid Term Review

- Held 19th October 2011
- Report received October 2012
- Mostly Highly Positive but a few issues and suggestions as follows.

Mid Term Review Comments (1/4)

Re-evaluate/Remove Inactive Partners

eg NoA, Uni Nice, Uni Provence)

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Mid Term Review Comments (2/4)

Telescopes not delivering contracted access.

- ESO
- Aristarchos
- Others

CEE countries not getting much of the TNA time

Outcome compared to Contract-Nights

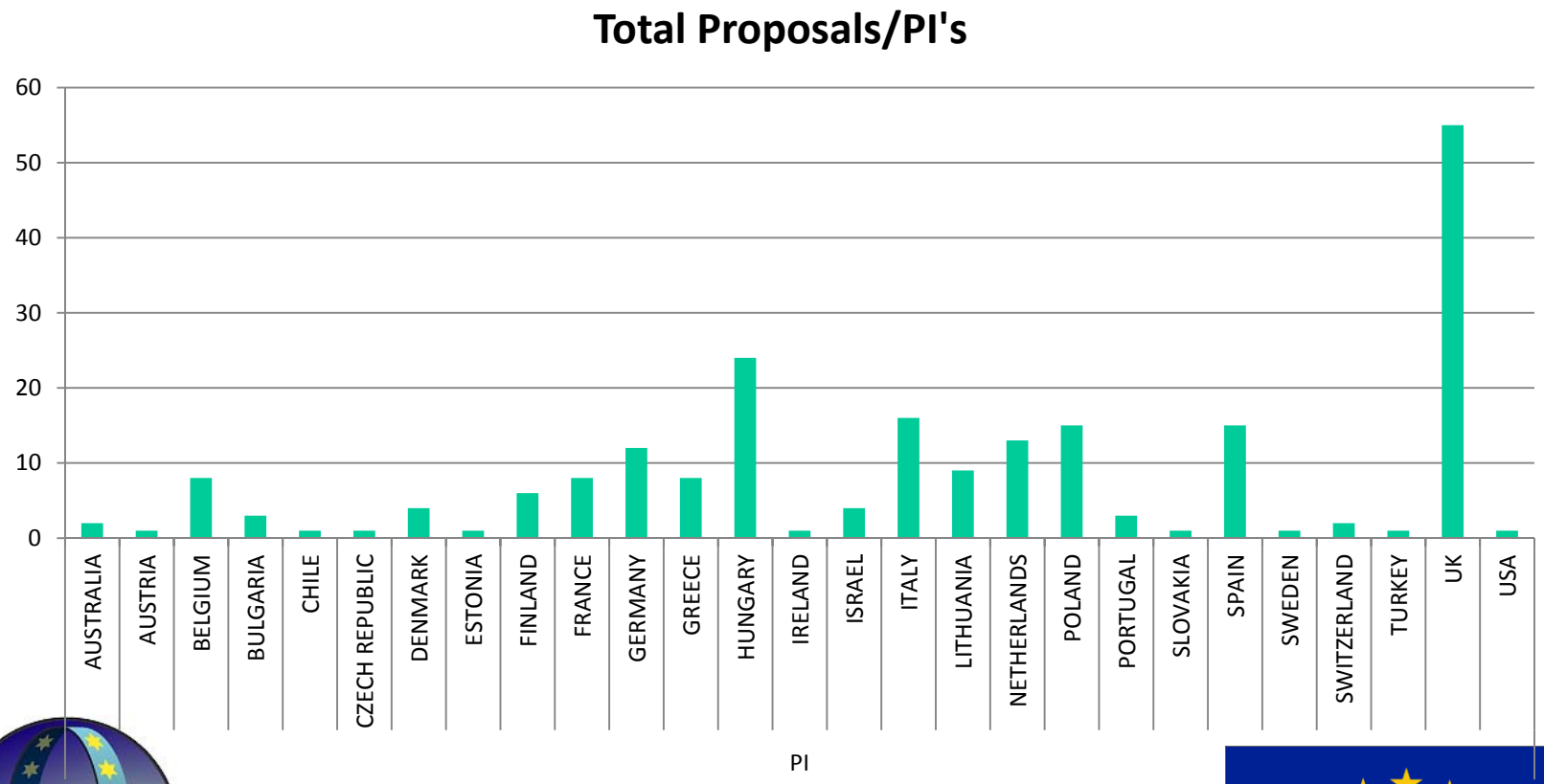
Telescope Short name	Minimum contracted	Total Delivered	Fraction by end 2012B
AAT	28.00	46.25	1.65
UKST	25.00	25	1.00
CAHA 3.5m	18.00	21	1.17
CAHA 2.2m	28.00	30.5	1.09
CFHT	8.00	15.96	2.00
ESO-3.6	18.00	0	0.00
ESO-NTT	18.00	0	0.00
ESO/MPG-2.2	25.00	4	0.16
WHT	18.00	9	0.50
INT	7.00	6	0.86
UKIRT (hours)	126.00	27	0.21
TNG	25.00	24.25	0.97
NOT	32.00	110.25	3.29
Aristarchos	23.00	0	0.00
OHP 1.9	50.00	67	1.34
TBL	32.00	33	1.03
TCS	23.00	14	0.61
THEMIS	11.00	10	0.91
SST	38.00	36	0.95
VTT	13.00	19	1.46
LT (hours)	151.00	111	0.74
DOT	32.00	24	0.75

See FP7_access_caclulator_to_12B.xlsx

FP7-1 TNA Overview

- 172/216 Proposals above science cut-off
- 84/216 Proposals received time
- 420 Team members involved
- 26 Countries benefited

2010B-2012



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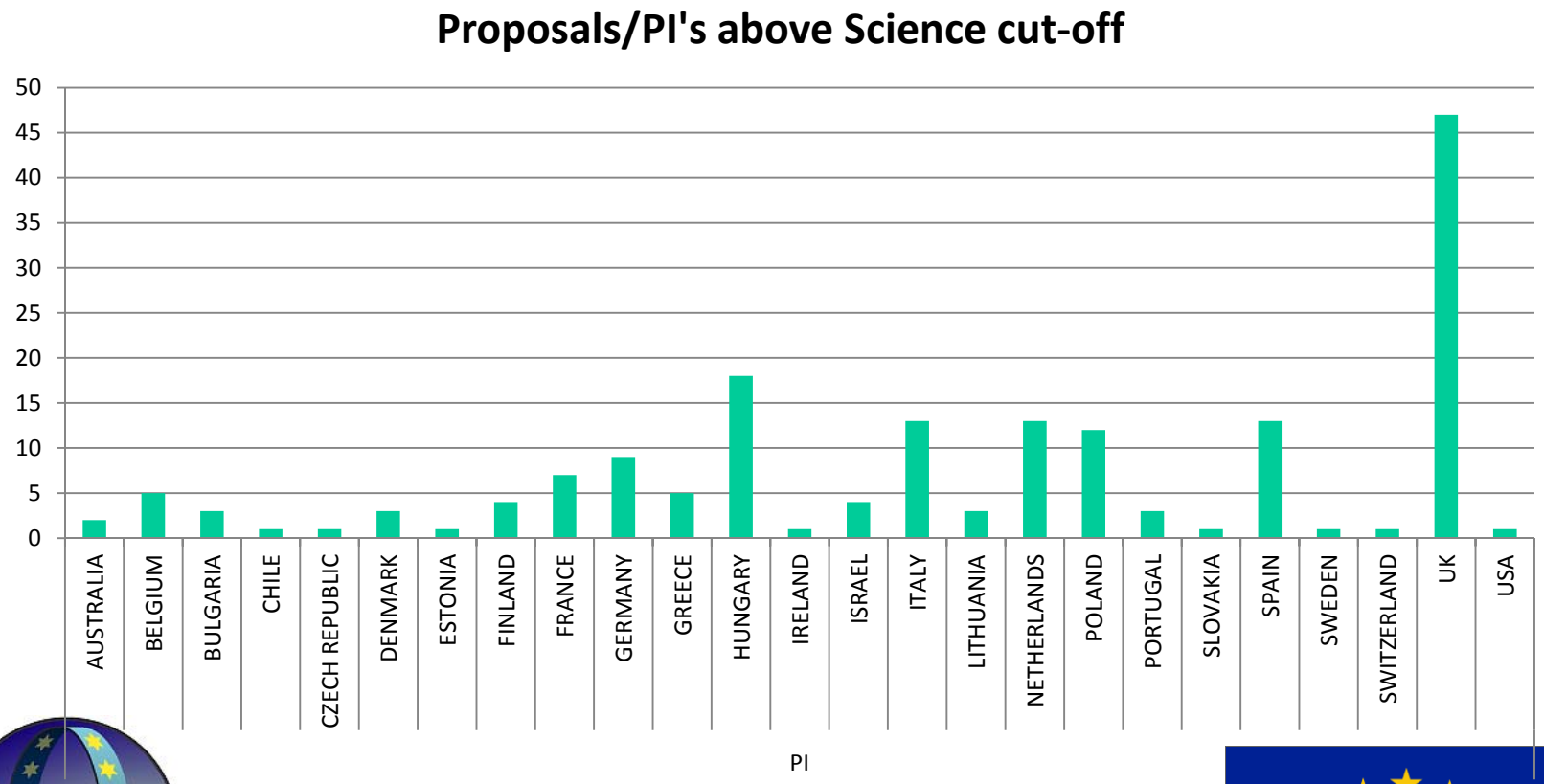
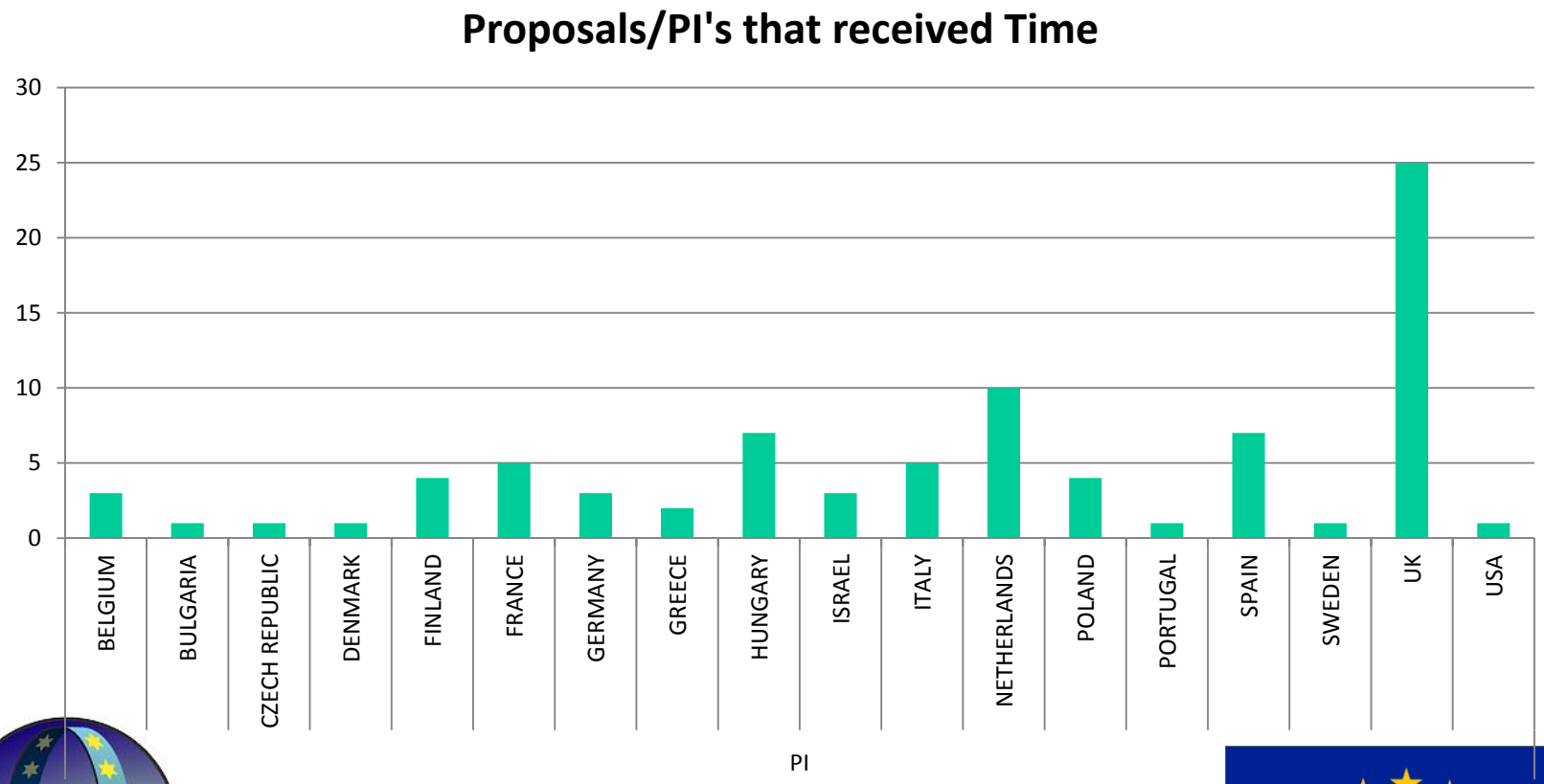
10B-12B



OPTICON TDF, Madrid oct 2012

10B-12A



OPTICON TDF, Madrid oct 2012

Mid Term Review Comments (2/4)

Telescopes not delivering contracted access.

- ESO
- Aristarchos
- Others

CEE countries not getting much of the TNA time

- NEON, La Caille
- JENAM/EAS newsletter. More visits?
- Improvements to website,
- More time in early FP7-2?

Mid Term Review Comments (3/4)

Insufficient Funds for TNA in Period 3.

Too Late now

Many telescoped offered 50% time in 2012

Mid Term Review Comments (4/4)

Insufficient acknowledgment of EC contributions.

Formal wording is on our Website, Some WP, eg JRA-2, has been very good with this, other less so. JKD to remind all WP leaders

More outreach needed.

Suggest co-operating with EAS. Who else?

Other MTR Feedbck

- Request from Project Officer that deliverables, especially when they are of a large or complicated nature, be supported by a short and non-technical ‘executive summary’ in a form suitable for upwrd reporting to non-specialists and for wider EC outreach/publicity.

FP7-2

Extension proposal in 2010 rejected by referees.

Second opportunity created for call in 2011

Rebid successful but budget cut to 8.5M Euro

Rapid replanning over summer resulted in major cuts to JRAs and some cuts to networks

Steady fall in budget

FP6 19.2M/5 years = 3.8/year

FP7-1 10M/4 years = 2.5/year

FP7-2 8.5M 4 years = 2.1/year

Allowing for inflation it is probably a factor of 1/3 worse than it looks, so in real terms the budget is less than 50% of FP6

Proposal: general comments

- *The proposal is not critical enough about the issue of being all-inclusive versus selective nurturing of facilities.*
- *The proposal does not provide a clear discussion as to the break-up of the several pieces of the budget. The ratio of COORD/MGMT/RTD/TNAS expenses is not explained in a satisfactory manner.*

Proposal: general comments

- *Furthermore, previous OPTICON proposals provided as well for the needs of the Solar Physics community, which has now left the consortium. Despite this, the requested contribution remains at its maximum. The panel hopes that the new areas into which the community is extending the scope of its activities maintains the high standards of the previous ones.*

Proposal: TNA comments

However, are all the facilities involved equally important? Access to e.g. the Liverpool telescope or NOT might not be of the same impact as better-proven and generic facilities like the CFHT, ING and AAT. There needs to be some clarification as to whether being all-inclusive is the way to go, instead of concentrating effort on effective and forward-looking facilities.

Additionally, the panel noticed that the contracted units of access for this proposal are well below what is being offered in the ongoing OPTICON (e.g. ING is contracting 18 nights for the full proposal whereas it currently offers 10 nights just for semester 2012A in ongoing OPTICON; something similar happens with CFHT). This should be clarified should the proposal be retained for funding

The participation of Australia`s AAO is very well justified.

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Proposal feedback: Bottom Line

If the proposal is retained for funding, then the panel suggests that economies should be made. The budget is not fully justified and in times of economic crisis savings should be made by everyone. The panel therefore recommends:

1. *An overall adjustment of current budget to 85% of requested contribution but maintaining:*
   a. *TNAS as described, since this is the tool to achieve a truly Integrating Activity.*
   b. *Maintain school and conference budgets.*
2. *In particular, request funding agencies to show their commitment to the proposed programs by requesting less than the maximum possible amount from the EC.*

Horizon 2020 objectives (1/3)

- Bring together and integrate, on a European scale, key research infrastructures, in order to promote their coordinated use and development
- Provide the users of research infrastructures with a harmonised, improved and optimised access to the best research infrastructures in a given field, independent of where the research infrastructures are located and by whom they are operated;

Horizon 2020 objectives (2/3)

- Create the basis for a more rapid advancement of science in Europe, enabling the development of new advanced technologies and the associated growth of the European technology market as well as the creation of a new generation of researchers, ready to exploit in the best way all the essential tools needed for their research;
- Harmonise and organise the continuous flux of data collected or produced, by integrating major scientific equipment (telescopes, synchrotrons, research vessels, etc.) or set of instruments (sensors, microscopes, radars, etc.), as well as knowledge based resources (collections, archives, structured scientific information, data infrastructures, etc.);

Horizon 2020 objectives (3/3)

- Structure the European Research Area, by developing synergies and complementarities between infrastructure operators, as well as a more co-ordinated approach with users and public authorities;
- Increase the potential for innovation and technology transfer of the related research infrastructures, in particular by reinforcing the partnership with industry and the use o research infrastructures by industrial researchers;
- Contribute to developing appropriate skills in Europe.

Questionnaire

1. Title
2. Proposer
3. Type of infrastructure (telescopes + databases and laboratories)
4. Topic area (Physical Sciences)
5. Partners
6. Scope + Activities
7. Need for European level Integration
8. Impact

Questionnaire Key Point

Only for those proposed topics that correspond to the follow-up of FP7 or FP6 funded Integrating Activities, please provide specific additional information on: the project(s) previously or currently funded and the level of funding; the main results and expected achievements of the funded project(s); the progress foreseen in the activities proposed beyond FP7. Text of maximum 4000 characters (including space

Bye to Suzanne

Board Exec meeting, Lake Como, Oct 2012

The End

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