Project Scientist Report


Fourth year report and separate final report to EU required by end of April. Input for these documents has been requested but some remain outstanding. It is essential that this information is provided soon.
Final Year Activities.

• Considerable effort towards FP6 proposal and subsequent contract negotiations

• There were several meetings of the ELT Working Group both for science case development and technical work. An FP6 design study bid was submitted earlier this year.
FP5 Activities

• Several splinter meetings of the Key Technology Working group.
• Meeting of the Medium Telescope Working group (Tenerife)
• Meeting of the Interferometry Working group (Nice)
• Presentations and other outreach particularly wrt the Trans-National Access programme
FP5 Deliverables

• This topic was covered in Chania. Our final report to the EU will stress how our activities met the goals of the FP5 programme.
FP6 Programme

• Contract is effective from 01 January 2004
• Many activities already underway.
• Each JRA has had a meeting.
• Some networks have already met, either in person or via twiki interfaces.
• Access programme already receiving considerable interest.
FP6 Deliverables!

- New Website launched
- New organogram produced.

OPTICON Board Meeting, Ghent. 1-2 April 2004
Project Office

• Minimising management overhead is both desirable and necessary.
• Project Office is actually a small number of individuals distributed across the consortium - not really a large physical office.
• IoA: Gerry Gilmore and Secretary
• UKATC: John Davies, Saskia Brierley
• IAC: Jesus Burgos and others.
Network Organisation

• N1 is management as described
• N2 is centred on the ENO and will be described by Jesus Burgos.
• N4 is a small activity with a budget shared between 2 contractors
• N5 is Interferometry and is run entirely from NOVA where all the budget is held
Network Organisation

- N3 (Structuring) comprises 6 quasi-independent activities with individual leaders. Its budget is shared between the 6 lines and divided equally between 8 large contractors - acting as banks.
- The N3 network is overseen by the Project Scientist. A single Network allows greater flexibility and the option to add and remove new structuring activities when required.
Network Organisation

Network 3 Activities

1. ELT science working group (Isobel Hook)
2. NUVA (Anna Gomez de Castro)
3. HTRA (Henk Spruit)
4. AVO/Interoperability (Peter Quinn)
5. Key Technologies (Colin Cunningham)
6. Software (Preben Grosbol)
Network Organisation

Network 6 comprises 3 related activities

1. The telescope directors forum. John Davies
2. The access office at the IAC. Jesus Burgos

Resources for activities 2 and 3 are devolved to IAC and IAP. Activity 1 resources are divided proportionally between the national agencies who operate telescopes.
Financial Issues

• Many labs/activities consolidated under contractors which are national agencies or other groupings.
• Contract sets out expected spending by contractor in each main area (JRA/ACCESS/NETWORK), but is not broken down below this top level.
• This allows considerable flexibility but also considerable responsibility at contractor level.
Financial Issues

• Based on the board priorities the budget is divided below the JRA/Network/Telescope level and these were summed to produce the totals per contractor in the contract.
• These detailed figures can be supplied to each contractor.
• Each contractor can use this money internally in any manner which is broadly consistent with board priorities.
• On request, the project office will undertake to manage networking money on behalf of a contractor.
Financial Issues

• At least annually the total spend per activity and per contractor will be compared with the guidelines from the board and the remaining totals adjusted in the light of spending and progress to date.

• Payments will be made directly to each contractor at intervals set out in the consortium agreement.
Access programme

Contractors in the access programme are formally responsible for the payment of travel support for trans-national users. We propose for practical reasons that these sums are advanced to the Access Office at the IAC who will hold them and pay all such claims. The Access Office will supply the co-ordinator with details of telescope user fees and these fees will be transmitted by UCAM to the national agency or direct to the telescope directors as requested.
Travel to Board and executive meetings

There is no specific budget to support travel to board meetings. We propose that since in most cases the costs of agency representatives attending board and executive meetings is less than 3% of the EU contribution through OPTICON, those agencies meet these costs from their overheads.

Exceptions are contractors with only small (or zero) budgets. We propose

- The Lieden representative will be funded by NOVA
- The IAP representative will be funded by INSU
- The GCNA, EAS representatives will be funded by the N1 network.
- The RDS and RA3 budgets be increased by 10K + 5K for board travel

Network, Access and JRA representatives are funded from their activity budget.
Approval of JRA and Network Leaders

• The consortium agreement sets out that JRA and Network PI’s should be approved by the board. You may chose to do so now, or at the conclusion of the technical presentations tomorrow.
Network Leaders

- N1 Management G. Gilmore
- N2 ENO J. Burgos
- N3 Structuring European Astronomy J. Davies
  - ELT science working group (I Hook),
  - AVO/Interoperability (P. Quinn),
  - HTRA (Spruit), UV-Net (A Gomez de Castro),
  - Key Technologies (C. Cunningham),
  - Software (P. Grosbol)
- N4 Fellowships and large scale projects J-L Puget/M. Kessler
- N5 Interferometry working group A. Quirrenbach
  - Andrzej Niedzielski,
  - Romain Petrov,
  - Jean Surdej
- N6 OPTICON Telescope Network J. Davies
  - Directors Forum J. Davies
  - Enhancement M. Denefeld
  - Access Office J. Burgos

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JRA Leaders

• JRA 1 Adaptive Optics – N. Hubin
• JRA 2 Infrared Detectors – P. Feautrier
• JRA 3 Optical Detectors for HTRA – S. Wagner
• JRA 4 Interferometry – A. Chelli
• JRA 5 Smart Focal Planes – C. Cunningham
• JRA 6 VPH Gratings – F. Zerbi
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