

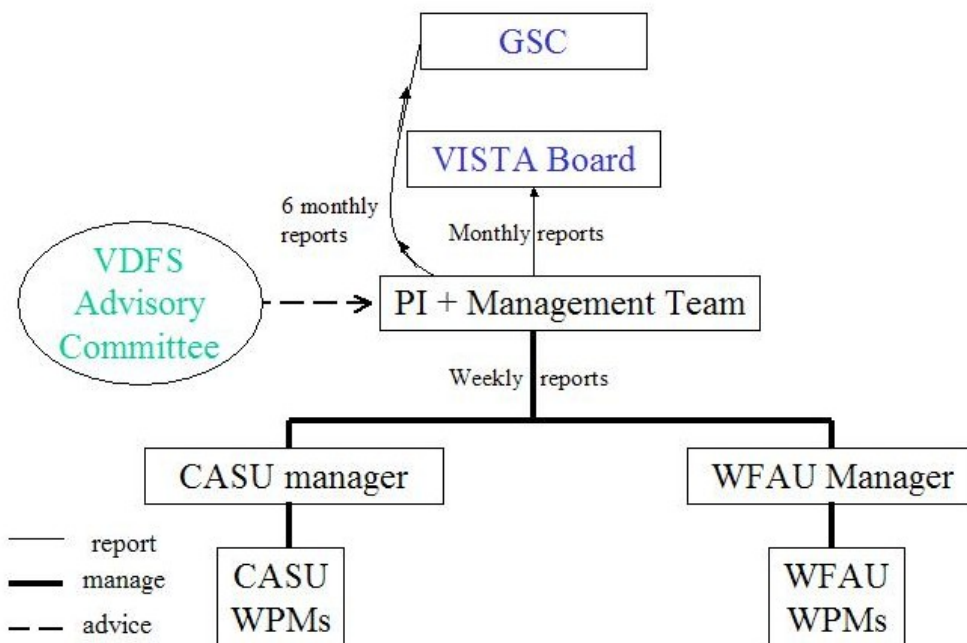
PARTICLE PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY RESEARCH COUNCIL

VISTA Project Board

VISTA Data Flow System (Progress since Jan VPMC meeting) Report by VDFS PI

Management

- 1) The last report stated that a paper was in preparation for the Feb 12 GSC meeting defining the hardware requirements, and the detailed VDFS testbed deliverables. Unfortunately the paper and presentation to GSC were not at all well received, in part due to a misunderstanding of the boundaries of what GSC were expecting and might find acceptable. The remaining staff funding sought in the Apr 02 application was nevertheless approved by GSC, though not the extra staffing and extension of existing staffing sought in the Feb 03 paper. Authorisation to purchase non-immediate hardware was held back.
- 2) As a consequence of the Feb GSC the Astrogrid Oversight Committee were asked to scrutinise the VDFS project planning and management structure and, if appropriate, reassure GSC. A meeting was held on April 28 in Cambridge which appeared to provide the AGOC with the required confidence. An issue raised by the AGOC was the appropriate oversight body for VDFS.
- 3) The VDFS Management structure is diagrammed below.



4) The Management team are:

VDFS Team role	Name	Related roles
PI (Queen Mary)	Jim Emerson	VISTA Consortium Director
co-I (Cambridge)	Richard McMahon	Astrogrid co-I UKIDSS member VISTA Science Committee
co-I (Edinburgh)	Andy Lawrence	Astrogrid PI UKIDSS leader VISTA Science Committee ex-chair
Coordinate ESO deliverable work with camera WP work	Malcolm Stewart	Manager VISTA software VISTA Project Office
Manager CASU Cambs Astro Survey Unit	Mike Irwin	UKIDSS member VISTA Science Committee
Manager WFAU Wide Field Astro Unit (Ed)	Peredur Williams	

- 5) Work is progressed and monitored through a series of quarterly plans which detail specific measurable deliverables in each work item. These plans are drawn up in light of progress in the previous quarter and the project milestones. At the end of each quarter progress will be assessed against the planned deliverables and reported. This should provide more confidence in progress than previous reporting which has been more qualitative in nature.
- 6) Within each quarter the Management team meets (can be telecom) monthly to report on & assess progress, and, if necessary, adjust work allocations to meet the planned targets. [Existing quarterly targets will not change in this process.]
- 7) Weekly both CASU and WFAU teams meet internally and minutes of the meeting are circulated to the PI + Management team.
- 8) The grant announcements to CASU & WFAU are now imminent. A delay in the expected delivery of WFCAM to JAC has served to relax the time pressure on delivering all parts of the planned system for WFCAM by the milestone of WFCAM commissioning. Both Cambridge and Edinburgh have re-committed themselves at departmental level to seeing that the delivery targets are met.
- 9) Top Level Milestones are:
 - '03 July VISTA DFS Preliminary Design Review
 - '03 Nov VISTA DFS Final Design Review
 - '04 Jan WFCAM DFS Commissioning
 - '04 Apr WFCAM DFS Operations
 - '05 Jan WFCAM v2 pipeline & archive
 - '05 Apr WFCAM 1st year data release
 - '05 Dec VISTA Instrument in Chile
 - '06 May VISTA Instrument and onsite DFS Commissioning
 - '06 Aug VISTA Instrument and ESO DFS Acceptance => Operations

- 10) PPARC's preferred route for continuing funding of the VISTA data flow system is through the round-2 e-science AO with a closing date in May. A (UK wide) meeting at NESC discussed the various possibilities of how the Astro community should structure their bids, given the way PP does it.

Survey Scheduling Tool (ATC?)

- 11) Discussions have taken place with Martin Folger at ATC with a view to getting some of his time to assist with a detailed proposal for how a survey scheduling system would be designed. Folger will join a visit to ESO to discuss the proposal with them before the best way to proceed can be decided.

ESO Deliverables (CASU)

- 12) Further detailed discussions have taken place on the interface between VDFS and camera team work. Peter Bunclark joined the CASU team on 1 April and will work on the documentation for the ESO deliverables.
- 13) A meeting between PPARC and ESO is scheduled at end April to set the value of the ESO DFS deliverables contribution in kind. Prior to that discussions between VDFS and ESO are needed to check a report that ESO has dropped key technical specifications on OmegaCAM involving on-line on-sky health checks of the instrument. This may have implications for VISTA.

Pipeline (CASU)

- 14) Work has focussed on preparation for WFCAM data, and the CASU manager is confident the deliveries will be made on schedule.
- 15) The quarterly plan for Apr-Jun is now agreed and in operation.
- 16) An ICD defining the WFCAM data formats is mainly agreed. Resolution on an outstanding issue seems close. The format in which the data will arrive at CASU (disk/tape) is undecided by JAC. A date for JAC's summit hardware review, at which these could be finalised, is being sought.
- 17) It is unclear who is responsible for sending WFCAM raw data to ESO or what format would be acceptable to ESO. Disks would cost ~£28k pa and handling about 0.2FTE (~£13k pa). Mirroring of the Cambridge raw data to ESO could be easier and cheaper. I intend to discuss this with ESO.
- 18) The ICD for the material sent to WFAU is agreed (subject to agreement of JAC-CASU ICD)

Archive (WFAU)

- 19) Work has focussed on preparation for WFCAM data, and I have expressed concerns about all the functionality being ready by the required milestone. The Dept have backed up their commitment to their deliveries by helping to

accelerate the work and the designs which are being presented to the CDR look in good shape. Slippage in WFCAM delivery to JAC has also given more time to deliver all planned functionality by the milestone. My concern has diminished since my last report to the Board.

20) The quarterly plan for Apr-Jun is now agreed and in operation.

21) The CDR for the WFCAM archive at WFAU is on 15 & 16 April at RoE.