VDFS-WSA Monthly Report: 2004 Quarter 4, Month 1: October: Narrative

1. General

We are currently engaged in preparing the bid for revision/rollover of our WFAU R-Grant, specifically funding for operation of the WFCAM and VISTA Science Archives. We expect to bid for one astronomer/operator to start as soon as possible after April 1. This person would work alongside the development team during the shakedown period, taking over routine functions and developing the expertise to provide a help desk function. We propose adding a second astronomer/operator in 2007 at the end of the development phase, when VISTA data will be being received routinely. Mindful of the goals for Archive uptime/downtime in the UK VISTA User Requirement Document (5.16), we are developing a maintenance plan for the hardware. Quotes we have received from the suppliers for maintenance contracts are rather high and we are considering various options. We have mapped out a programme of additional disk space purchases over the 5-year period to keep up with the data we expect to ingest.

During October, NCH attended the Gaia meeting at Meudon and MAR attended and presented a poster at the ADASS meeting.

2. Hardware

The disk upgrades for one of the catalogue servers, "amenhotep", have been installed and the SSA and auxiliary catalogue databases are being built on it. Once this is complete, "amenhotep" will take over public service and "ahmose" will be upgraded similarly.

3. Software

Progress is summarized in the project plan; more details are in the weekly minutes.

4. Plans for November

Complete and submit RG proposal! Analyse the URD to identify required changes in the design (note: some aspects of the design will have to wait until specifications of the major public surveys, like those designed by UKIDSS, have been determined). Then develop a project plan that can map more clearly on to the top level project reporting structure proposed by JMS.

PMW
4 Nov 2004