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Summary

This document presents work package progress by CASU during February 2005.
For further details of group activities over the past month and quarter see
http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/vdfs/diary.html
For the minutes of all group meetings see
http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/vdfs/docs/minutes

- o We've had three telecons with JAC since the last VDMT meeting. WFCAM is on schedule, after a successful cold test, to go back on the telescope on March 7th. Lewis has just left for 2 weeks in Hawaii to participate in commissioning phase-2. UKIDSS survey verification is due to start on March 16th with the presence of Hodgkin and Dye. Hodgkin will stay on until beginning of April to ensure photometric calibration setup is completed (assuming no warmup and weather permitting) and to overlap with UKIDSS startup.

- o The Lockman Hole data has been processed and shows the curtaining problem. JRL and MJI are investigating alternative strategies for removing this and other effects (e.g. pedestal offsets). A preliminary reduction of this dataset has been sent to Edinburgh for ingestion into the WSA (images, flatfields and catalogues).

- o Reports on the WFCAM phase-1 commissioning data have been released/updated and are available at:

  1. http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/vdfs/commissioning/ (background, processing, noise, astrometry, photometry, lockman hole)

  2. http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/vdfs/commissioning2/ (dark and reset anomaly correction)

  3. http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/vdfs/commissioning3/ (microstepping offsets)

- o Lewis and Irwin attended the VDUC meeting in Edinburgh, mainly dealing with status of the WFCAM pipelines, science archive and commissioning data analysis

- o The Edinburgh and Cambridge rolling grant review was held at the IoA on Feb 23rd. Talks were presented for the panel (John Davies (Chair), Mike Watson, Gavin Dalton, Steve Maddox) by Mike Irwin (overview), Floor van Leewen (Hipparcos, & Gaia), Lewis (archive), Hodgkin (science). Riello and Gonzalez-Solares also in attendance.

- o The move back to APM is well underway with processing equipment being reinstalled as I write. Hodgkin, Irwin, Evans, Lewis (in absence), Argyle, Riello and Gozalez-Solares have all taken possession of their rather fab new offices.

- o Marco Riello has installed and started the testing of the ESO code for pushing WFCAM data over to ESO. Some teething troubles exist with the checksum information that confirms successful transfer. This should be rectified in the near future.

- o Following the ESO FDR, CASU are dealing with 74 of the RIX responses. These have an absolute deadline of the end of March. Bunclark has written the Board Dispositions as far as he can from his notes and input from those in attendance from CASU. These will be circulated imminently. A couple of points to be raised at VDMT are:

  1. What was the ESO reaction to the VISTA Data Dictionary document.

  2. Can we have an update on the VISTA and VDFS schedules ?

o   A set of VISTA multiplexor FITS files was obtained from Guy Woodhouse at RAL. A number of problems are apparent with these files. It was also noted that with the new version of the IRAC software and the availability of the TCS simulator that in principle test VISTA FITS data, with headers, could be produced. PSB is liaising with Steven Beard about the implementation of the full MEF format.

o   Hodgkin submitted an abstract for NAM based on the SPIE proceedings. Unfortunately only a poster slot could be secured, though it is understood that Emerson has a talk.

o   We know of 5 VST proposals submitted from the UK. Three are linked with VDFS: Seb Oliver (SWIRE), Tom Shanks & RGM (Sloan South), Steve Warren (LAS). The other proposals are from Janet Drew (Halpha) and Gavin Dalton. All these proposals would add up to all the available VST public survey time (~40%). In all likelihood, the UK would not get more than get 20% of the total VST observing time after allowing for earmarked guaranteed time and PI time. A data management plan was drawn up by JPE and RGM based on the VDFS model and has been used as the basis for the data management section in these applications.