

VDFS Users Committee (VDUC)

Terms of Reference

The VDFS (VISTA Data Flow System) Project for WFCAM & VISTA data calibrates & archives data from the instruments, and provides access to the science archives which will be integrated into the Virtual Observatory.

The VISTA Data Flow System Users Committee (VDUC) will communicate the scientific views of UK users of WFCAM & VISTA data to the VDFS Project. The purpose, composition and operation of meetings are:

1. Purpose: Provide independent and scientifically informed advice to the VDFS Project on behalf of VDFS's UK user community. The advice covers areas such as:
 - Monitoring progress towards meeting the Science Requirements.
[e.g. by contributing to and overseeing plans for performance verification in the commissioning phase, and for monitoring performance in the operational phase]
 - Critically examining the scientific impact of VDFS design, plans and performance.
[e.g. by advising the project on ranking of scientific priorities for the development of capabilities to satisfy the Science Requirements]
 - Technical issues as they affect end users.
[e.g. comments on user interfaces, functionality provision, access to data products etc].
 - Keeping the Science Requirements under review.
 - Scientific utilisation of the VDFS.
 - Longer term science priorities for VDFS development.
2. Membership: VDUC, which will serve for 2 years in the first instance, shall be composed of
 - A Chairperson nominated by PPARC,
 - The WFCAM, VISTA and Astrogrid Project Scientists (or their nominees)
 - Four other representative active researchers, one each nominated by the UKIRT Board, the VISTA Project Board, the UKIDSS Consortium and the VISTA Consortium respectively
 - Members of the VDFS Management Group will be in attendance
 - Others may attend by invitation

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3. Meetings:

- The VDUC will normally meet 2 times a year, in Cambridge or Edinburgh, unless the Chairman agrees otherwise.
- The VISTA Project Scientist shall act as secretary to the VDUC
- A list of actions with due dates and person responsible shall be circulated within 2 working days of each meeting, and draft Minutes within 2 weeks, unless the Chairman agrees otherwise
- Minutes will be made available to the UKIRT Board, the VISTA Project Board, and the UKIDSS and VISTA Consortia.
- The expenses of VDUC meetings will be met by PPARC.
