

## **AstroGrid Project Leader Report** for AGLI Telecon 2007-10-10

Report on AGLI Actions primarily on me and/or AGLI as a whole.

*Actions formally recorded at May meeting :*

**Action 20070522-3 AL:** ensure that monthly reports are prepared by the PL, PM, PrM, PS on the 1st of each month and uploaded to the wiki.

Not done. Discussions since have suggested that we henceforward have AGLI (..ACB) every two months, and reports will be done for these. If AGLI still want monthly reports, this could be done.

**Action 20070522-6 AL:** Contact Deb Miller at STFC to explain the AG3 plan and routes forward.

Done. Negotiations held in June.

**Action 20070522-6B AGLI:** send input to AL on the best AG3 advice structure

Some input was received. Final agreement to be discussed in Lifetime Project Plan.

**Action 20070522-7 AGLI:** send updated per institute figures for AG2 to John Pye to allow him to update the current AG2 predicted outturn to end AG2.

Done. Statement issued to June meeting and STFC.

*Implicit actions from June meeting :*

**June-1 : MGW and SG :** to arrange 3 month extensions for Leicester and Manchester AG2 grants, and to do in such a way as to minimise AG3 costs

**June-2 : AGLI (including Birkinshaw) :** to complete AG3 JES forms following AL's instructions

**June-3 : AL :** to decide with UCLAN and UCL who was submitting grants

**June-4 : AL :** (but really Peredur Williams and Simon Berry), to sum the figures from the JES forms and apply standard inflation correction, to check it fits within STFC cap.

**June-5 : AGLI :** following the above calculation, to discuss if necessary how to trim AG3 grants

**June-6 : AL, MGW, RGM :** to bring forward plans for final spend on VOTECH, DCA, and new AIDA money

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User interface work. I had another VOExplorer design meeting with Noel, which was quickly followed by an meeting with most of the science team and some of the engineers on the user interface. These were very promising. Not all the agreed changes are yet implemented. It was agreed that the general plan should be a beta release of "VO Desktop" in January, and a proper release with full splash in April 2008 - but this needs AGLI endorsement. As part of the deployment plan, there is a proposed design team for the top level definition of our release - me, Nic, and Keith. We plan to have a brainstorming on this very soon.

AG3 status. I have JES forms from Edinburgh, Cambridge, UCLAN, MSSSL, Bristol, and equivalent information from RAL. I have no information from Leicester and Manchester. This is getting **urgent**, as staff contracts will be ending soon, and we simply cannot plan. As soon as the financial plan is finally agreed, I will provide updated uniform text for various places.

JENAM. I attended the JENAM VO session in Armenia in August, and gave a review talk on "massive surveys and the VO". Jonathan Tedds also attended and gave a good talk. AstroGrid products featured well in various talks. The combined Euro-VO demo stall was however a failure, through no fault of ours - no network other than inconsistent wireless was provided. Paolo Padovani is negotiating a refund.

VOTECH review. We completed a [formal mid-term review](#), with Alex Szalay as external reviewer, and our contract officer (Maria Carvalho-Dias) also attending. This went extremely well. Amongst other things, it got the DS teams to deliver three more deliverables, and we are now 100% on track. Key remaining deliverables are the Resource Discovery Study Report, and the Euro-VO Reference Architecture.

VOTECH spend. We are still forecasting an underspend at Cambridge and/or Leicester, but cannot plan how to use this until we have a final result from the AG3 grant planning. Filling a one year staff post at Cambridge is obviously hard, so we may want to do something more creative. Maria Carvalho-Dias mentioned to me that it could be possible to ask for a *no-cost extension*, but we would have to let her know soon.

AIDA status. We have (almost) complete AIDA contract negotiations, with Edinburgh as the formal UK partner. Various docs are available on the [secure Plone area](#). Compared to the proposal, there are modest cuts (10%) all round, so that we have enough for approx 40 staff months and will need to contribute a similar amount. Start date is February 2008, duration 30 months (2 year long cycles plus kickoff/wrapup phases of 3 months.) Note that we have lead responsibility for WP6=JRA1 on Developing Interop Standards.

Further FP7 calls ? We should perhaps be pro-active in targeting further FP7 calls, so that we can take a leadership position.

AG longterm calendar. I put together a long term forecast of AstroGrid related events, and published it on Google calendar so you can all see it. (And some people can edit it).. You can see this [here](#).