

# Report of Gemini's Science and Technology Advisory Committee (STAC)

## October 2015

The STAC held its ninth meeting on 29-30 October 2015 in La Serena, Chile.

### STAC Membership

Alberto Ardila (remote)	Paulina Lira
Thomas Barnes	Sarah Martell
Jacob Bean (remote)	Paul Martini - Chair
Guillermo Bosch	Laura Parker (remote)
Fabio Bresolin (not attending)	Eric Steinbring
Marc Buie	Abhijit Saha
Don Gavel (not attending)	Gillian Wilson (not attending)

### Development

9.1 The STAC endorses the Observatory's stated development priorities, which in order are: GHOST, Gen4#3, LGSF, GMOS-N, Small Projects, NGS2, A&G, Altair RTC, DM0, GNIRS.

9.2 The STAC places a very high priority on the LGSF procurement, integration, and commissioning due to the great strategic value of more robust MCAO.

9.3 The STAC emphasizes the continued importance of the GMOS-N upgrade, and the present prioritization of this upgrade assumes it will be complete in mid 2016.

9.4 The STAC appreciates the detailed history of the GMOS-S Hamamatsu issues in the Annex to the Current Instruments report. The Observatory noted their need to develop better communication channels to notify the community of problems. We particularly wish to highlight our agreement with this point.

9.5 The STAC commends the Observatory's plans to pursue resource sharing with other observatories to provide more flexible access to scarce skill sets.

9.6 The STAC remains concerned that short-term, high priority items are not completed in a timely manner, and suggests this is because development milestones are not accurately forecasted. We are pleased that the latest development report included a list of milestones. The STAC would like future development reports to continue to list future milestone, as well as milestones achieved, resource information, a project timeline, a risk assessment, and a summary of changes. Our goal is that this will lead to more accurate forecasts, and help us make better recommendations on development.

### GRACES

9.7 The STAC congratulates the Observatory on the success of the GRACES effort.

### GHOST Site Selection

9.8 The STAC reaffirms our recommendation that GHOST should be commissioned at Gemini South. This recommendation is motivated by the rich array of southern targets and the success of GRACES.

## **Gen4#3**

9.9 The STAC is pleased to see continued progress on the development of Gen4#3, and endorses the next steps outlined by the Observatory.

9.10 The STAC would like to be informed when the GIFS reports are available, and plans to provide input on capabilities to our representation on the Gen4#3 Steering Committee.

9.11 The STAC places a very high priority on the schedule for Gen4#3. We think there is great scientific value to having Gen4#3 available when LSST begins operations, and recommend that schedule is a significant evaluation criterion in the RfP. We place a higher priority on schedule than capabilities beyond the baseline set identified in the Development Report.

## **HIPPI**

9.12 The STAC favors proceeding with this proposal to encourage Gemini's leading role in visitor instrumentation on 8-10 meter telescopes. We would like more information about the science case and technical capabilities when asked to evaluate the scientific merit of new instrumentation.

## **Proposal Modes**

9.13 The STAC is happy to see the extension of the Fast Turnaround Program to the South.

9.14 The STAC is pleased with the current relative time allocations between Large/Long, Fast Turnaround, and General Programs.

## **Science Time**

9.15 The STAC endorses the observatory's goal for science time in 2016B: 86% for the South, 91% for the North.

## **Redistribute STAC Points of Contact**

GHOST: TBD

GRACES: Fabio Bresolin

GMOS: Laura Parker

F2: Alberto Rodriguez Ardila

GeMS: Eric Steinbring

GPI: Jacob Bean

ALTAIR & Gemini North AO: Paul Martini

Gen4#3: Tom Barnes

Archive: Paulina Lira

Small Projects: Guillermo Bosch

Default for other issues: Chair

## **Acknowledgement**

The STAC is grateful to Don Gavel and Sarah Martell for their service to the committee.

## **Future STAC Meetings**

The 2016A meeting will be May 5-6, 2016 in Hilo, Hawai'i, the 2016B meeting will be November 10-11 in La Serena, Chile.