

Director's response to ATUC Report – June 2016

ATUC Recommendation	Director's Response	Traffic Light
Commendations and successes		
ATUC commends ATNF for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The first 36-beam image with the ADE PAFs - Progress on the UWB low receiver, and the rocket PAF - Signing the agreement for a 19beam receiver for FAST - Progress on unattended observing at ATCA - CASDA progression and release - Updates to the observing webpages which are much improved on the old sites - ASKAP community busy weeks 	Noted and thanks	
Recommendations		
3. Implications of the AAL-proposed distribution of NCRIS funding		
a) ATNF should continue discussions with AAL about future funding allocations, in particular avenues for bridging funding while the ASKAP telescope is undergoing commissioning and to provide time for new operating models for the other telescopes to be implemented.	Discussions with AAL are continuing, with the aim of securing ongoing funding for CASS operations at a reduced level, as part of a broader plan to maintain our National Facility capability.	Green
b) ATNF undertakes a risk analysis to understand the impact of loss of capability at any of the current radio facilities at the present time. This should address the effects on ATNF, the domestic astronomy community, as well as the global community and Australia's standing therein.	CSIRO thanks ATUC for the constructive input in this regard. An analysis of the high level risks flowing from significant loss of National Facility capability is in preparation and will be completed by December 2016	Amber
4. Feedback from the community		
a) Funding:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) co-funding (e.g. Parkes as an educational telescope) ii) cost recovery (e.g. for the MRO site development) 	Expanding PULSE @Parkes as a funded educational unit is being actively explored.	Green
	This is progressing.	Amber

<p>iii) re-deploying travel funds (savings made by remote observers) to pay for telescope operations.</p> <p>b) Users requested more support for any new modes provided on ATCA.</p>	<p>Most of the savings in this regard have been realised already.</p> <p>Development of any new ATCA mode will require support from users – we will seek to make this clearer to the user community at the next ATUC meeting</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>Green</p>
<p>5. Feedback from the community</p>		
<p>The submission and evaluation of Legacy Projects should proceed as originally intended. ATNF should make every effort to ensure that Legacy Projects, once approved, are able to be completed, particularly if the continued operation of the ATCA comes under threat. While ATUC is in principle open to the possibility of increasing the fraction of time devoted to Legacy projects, this would depend on the quality of the proposals, and the community should be consulted further if particularly large adjustments are to be made. Regardless, care should be taken to ensure that the diversity of science areas from approved proposals (which is one of the key strengths of ATCA) remains well balanced across the full suite of Legacy and non-Legacy projects.</p>	<p>CASS recognises the importance of completing Legacy surveys once started. More information will be provided at the next ATUC meeting, but to summarise, ATCA Legacy Projects are proceeding in the manner recommended by ATUC.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>6. LBA implications</p>		
<p>Every effort should be made to preserve the long-baseline capabilities in Australia, and ATNF should prioritise the tied array capability of ASKAP over less pressing developments.</p>	<p>The importance of the LBA capabilities is recognised and CASS will endeavour to maintain these subject to budgetary constraints.</p> <p>Developments with the tied array capability of ASKAP will be reported at the next ATUC meeting.</p>	<p>Amber</p> <p>Amber</p>
<p>7. Options for funding</p>		
<p>We request the allocation of ATNF resources (including FTEs) to form a working group that is dedicated to assessing and securing alternative funding sources, being guided by the risk and cost-benefit analysis recommended in Section 3.</p>	<p>The CASS management team is pursuing all options to maintain capability of its National Facilities as a priority, guided by cost-benefit and risk analyses.</p>	<p>Amber</p>
<p>8. Science Cases</p>		
<p>The ATCA future science document provides an essential reference on the value of ATCA to the</p>	<p>We anticipate an update to the ATCA</p>	<p>Amber</p>

global astronomy community. A similar document may be of use for Parkes.	future science document following the commencement of the ATCA Legacy Programs. A similar document for Parkes will be considered after the UWB receiver is deployed.	
9. Impacts on ASKAP		
ATUC would like ATNF to consider what savings could be made with regards to ASKAP in light of a full risk and cost-benefit analysis.	This will be addressed at the next ATUC meeting.	Amber
10. Instrumentation/technology developments		
In terms of prioritising future instrumental developments, ATUC recommends that ATNF seek wider community input to determine which of these would have the largest and most valuable impact. Prioritisation could also be made with regards to which upgrades successfully acquire funding via external sources.	Agreed. Current thinking with regard to future instrumental developments will be presented at the next ATUC meeting – briefly, these include a PAF on Parkes, an ultra-wideband high frequency for Parkes, and a replacement for CABB.	Green
11. Facilitating ongoing collaboration between groups within and external to CASS		
ATUC asks that ATNF provide and disseminate detailed information on opportunities to visit/work at telescope sites, including costs and scenarios where this would be allowed.	This will be presented at the next ATUC meeting.	Green
12. CASS Radio School and Data Reduction Workshops		
We recommend that ATNF engages ICRAR in a discussion regarding the possibility of hosting a radio school out of sequence with the traditional CASS Radio School. We also suggest the scenario of alternating between Parkes and Narrabri to be explored further by ATNF staff.	We remain willing to collaborate with other institutions in hosting out-of-sequence Radio Schools should such offers materialise. We will continue to run Data Reduction Workshops in Sydney every year.	Amber
13. Key CASDA Stage II goals (as in full plan)		
ATUC suggests:- 1. <i>Support ASKAP 1-d spectra and time domain data products</i> Note: It may not be practical to store these data products (for short timescales). ATUC was not clear what a 1-d spectrum data product is (or rather, how it would differ from	1. 1-d spectra and time domain data are produced by the ASKAP pipelines, i.e. “Level 6” data products. 1-d spectra are	Green

<p>the data products mentioned in #2 below).</p> <p>2. <i>Support ASKAP images, cubes, spectra, time series, cross-matched catalogues etc provided by Science Survey Teams as ASKAP 'post-archive' data products</i> This is the most likely to be of use to the top-ranked SSP proposals</p> <p>3. <i>Extend CASDA to include legacy data products (images/ cubes/ spectra/ catalogues) from surveys taken with the Australia Telescope Compact Array and Parkes radio telescope.</i> This would add value to the legacy projects, but may not be within the budget.</p>	<p>extracted from a full spectral cube, for example integrated spectra of an HI detection from WALLABY cube, along with moment maps of the detection. All products that come out of the ASKAP pipeline will be stored in CASDA. The initial capability of handling extracted 1-d spectra is under active development at present.</p> <p>2. These data products are referred to as "Level 7" data products. They are produced after Level 6 data products (produced by ASKAP pipelines) are available in CASDA. CASDA is currently able to accept level 7 catalogues but not yet images and related products. CASDA Stage 2 will provide capability to store Level 7 images.</p> <p>3. The CASDA Stage 2 project includes support for ATCA and Parkes data but progress is currently resource-limited. Opportunities for funding for this part of the project are being actively pursued.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>Amber</p>
<p>14. Other issues</p>		
<p>Observing websites should be tested on multiple platforms.</p>	<p>While every reasonable effort is made to check compatibility with main browsers and platforms we do rely on feedback from</p>	<p>Green</p>

<p>It is also very difficult to get contact details for ATNF staff. The "Staff List" (http://www.atnf.csiro.au/people/staff_list.html) only gives names and groups, but does not provide phone numbers or usernames.</p> <p>ATNF should include contact information for key staff on their website (with access restricted to those with CSIRO logins if preferred/required).</p>	<p>users to catch specific problems.</p> <p>The Staff List page is in the process of being overhauled to include office extension no. and a simple e-mail formula (template) which should address this.</p>	<p>Amber</p>
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