ATNF Director's Response
ATUC meeting October 2009

ATUC Recommendations	Director's Response	Traffic light
Commendations and successes		
1. ATUC commends both Warwick Wilson for receiving the CSIRO Lifetime Achievement Award and John O'Sullivan for receiving the Prime Minister's prize for Science.	Thank you	
2. ATUC congratulates the ATNF for the success of the Parkes Radio School.	Thank you	
3. ATUC would like to thank the ASKAP Project Scientists Ilana Feain and Simon Johnston for coordinating the Science Survey Projects and getting these moving forward at last months meeting.	Noted	
Matters arising from May 2009 ATUC report		
1. Matters arising #1: ATCA C/X upgrade: ATUC strongly recommends the ATNF to complete the C/X upgrade, which has obvious benefits not only for the ATCA, but for Parkes as well.	Noted	
2. Matters arising #2: ATUC looks forward to a report on the new TAC process at the next ATUC meeting	Noted	
3. Matters arising #4: Standing wave on Mopra. ATUC understands the sub-reflector motor is not able to drive at constant rate as is done at Parkes. ATUC suggests the ATNF look to install a new motor for Mopra, but also look at a Path Length Modulator as an alternative solution	Noted	
4. Matters arising #6: Fast Mapping on Mopra. ATUC are encouraged by progress and look forward to having this feature implemented for the next winter season.	Noted	
5. Recommendations #3: Calibrators and Quality Control. ATUC would appreciate users be informed when the C2050 project has identified suitable millimetre calibrators.	Noted	
6. Recommendations #4: ATUC looks forward to receiving a report at the next meeting on CABB system performance and how the observed Tsys estimation used by the sensitivity calculator compares with real data. ATUC also suggest the online sensitivity calculator not be too optimistic.	Noted	
7. Recommendations #6, #10 and #15: ATUC appreciates the characterization of ATNF telescopes is being addressed.	Noted	
ATUC Recommendations		
ATCA		
1. Order of preference for zoom-modes after 1MHz (4, 16, 64MHz). Based on the information provided by Graeme Carrad and user feedback, ATUC recommends the ATNF first address the 16MHz option before embarking on the 64MHz option, and inform users how to configure the 1MHz system to get 64MHz in the interim. ATUC recommends this technique be described with examples on CABB web page.	Noted. This recommendation will be coupled with the input from the implementation team to determine the order in which the zoom modes can best be delivered. A configuration explanation and its publication will be investigated and communicated at or before the next ATUC meeting.	Green
2. Handling CABB data. ATUC would like to see a tips & tricks page set up (i.e., generic strategy for processing data). Also, an automatic flagger to deal with all known RFI would be appreciated by users once available.	A 'tips and tricks' page is under consideration. Its availability will be communicated to the community. The RFI flagger existed for pre-CABB data. Its implementation for post-CABB data is underway but is non-trivial. Progress will be reported at or before the next ATUC meeting.	Green

3. Miriad manual and CABB data. ATUC accepts CABB is still very much in a state of flux. However, much of the Miriad documentation has not yet been updated, although the latest version of Miriad does handle CABB data. To cater for both the occasional and expert Miriad user, ATUC recommends the Miriad cookbook (http://www.atnf.csiro.au/computing/software/miriad/userguide/userhtml.html) be brought up to date to reflect the changes introduced by CABB.	Agreed. Progress will be reported at or before he next ATUC meeting.	Green
4. ATCA in "single-dish" mode. ATUC understands it is possible to record auto-correlation ("single-dish") spectra on the ATCA to get 5 x 22 m dishes for high-resolution spectroscopy. ATUC notes that Andrew Walsh will be trialing this mode in March 2010 and looks forward to his report, and subject to the outcome, with the future possibility of the ATNF offering this observing mode to all users.	Noted	Green
Mopra		
5. Remote observing for large-scale projects. ATUC notes that ATNF seeks advice on how they can assist with remote observing of large projects. Andrew Walsh will prepare a report for the ATNF based on his HOPS observing experience, and seek advice from other large-scale Mopra project teams.	Noted. Graeme Carrad to propose date for report from Andrew Walsh.	Green
6. Webcam for remote observing. ATUC recommends ATNF install an all-sky webcam at Mopra (like the APT webcam at Coonabarrabran) with an active cross which traces where the telescope is pointing.	Some consideration has been given to this. The ATNF invites further discussion at the next ATUC meeting to clarify the priorities. Is this to look at pointing direction or weather? Can the APT camera be used if weather is the driver?	Green
Parkes		
7. 5-6 GHz system at Parkes. ATUC recommends ATNF address the lack of a fully functional 5-GHz system at Parkes. ATUC understands a prototype C-band LNA is available and suggests this be installed in the AT-Multiband receiver to allow a high-ranking LBA proposal to proceed. ATUC also urges the ATNF to persue development of the 4-12 GHz LNA (as part of the ATCA C/X upgrade) to upgrade the existing K/Ku package at Parkes. The wider frequency coverage will cover both a replacement for the 5-GHz receiver and the loss of the 6-GHz Multibeam, should it be moved to Effelsberg.	Noted. The C Band amplifier is being tested with the intention of using it in the Parkes multiband receiver. The development of a 4-12 GHz amplifier is to be carried out in this financial year. Prototyping and production will depend on funding becoming available.	Amber
8. Receiver rationalisation. ATUC recommends the ATNF not be to restrictive in relation to limiting receiver changes at Parkes, especially in relation to LBA/eVLBI observing which presently covers several frequencies on a regular basis.	Agreed. Tasso Tzioumis's role as Project Leader will ensure the interests of LBA/eVLBI are considered.	Green
9. Continuum and polarization software. ATUC recommends the ATNF look to support and implement a continuum and polarization data reduction software package.	This is being actively pursued for Parkes data and a report on progress will be given at or before the next ATUC meeting.	Green
LBA/eVLBI		
10. LBA documentation. Given the sometimes complex cabling required for eVLBI/LBA setups at Parkes, ATUC recommends documentation for Parkes setups be improved.	Ordinarily, operations staff would carry out this setup with limited documentation. A review of documentation and/or procedure will lead to a more reliable set up. The outcome will be communicated.	Green
Other Matters		
11. Remote operations. ATUC are encouraged to hear the ATNF is retaining some flexibility to allow users to observe on-site.	Noted	

12. ATNF HI gateway. ATUC would like to point out the ATNF HI gateway does not function as expected. For example, passing this string into a web browser: http://www.atnf.csiro.au/research/HI/common/?coord1=302&coord2=-0.0&coord_type=gl%2Fgb&state=query for the HIPASS survey the following message can be seen: **Warning**: opendir(/DATA/MULTI_8/WWW_RELEASE/HIPASS_RDV): failed to open dir: No such file or directory in **/nfs/wwwatdocs/research/HI/common/functions.php** on line **961** Directory "/DATA/MULTI_8/WWW_RELEASE/HIPASS_RDV" doesn't exist	A problem with access to the HI gateway has been resolved. There is a more general issue with providing sufficient resources to support data products and we propose this as a topic for discussion at the next ATUC meeting.	Green
13. OPAL abstracts on ADS. ATUC suggests ATNF may wish to consider publishing accepted OPAL abstracts on ADS, similar to other facilities such as HST and Chandra.	This will be considered in terms of the resources required and benefits provided to the community. We will report back to ATUC on this later.	Amber
14. Radio School suggestions. Based on feedback from users, it was suggested that there be more coordination between speakers on their topics and that there be more hands-on practical sessions (such as conducting observations and handling single-dish data).	We will endeavour to improve speaker coordination and extend the practical sessions for future Radio Schools.	Green
15. ATNF accommodation website. Some users have noticed that the accommodation website does not recall updates made by users in previous sessions.	We are unsure whether this problem refers to the ATNF accommodation booking form, or to information provided on the ATNF website. (There is not a specific 'accommodation website' as such.) We note that there was previously a problem with information provided on the visitor's accommodation booking form not being updated. This has since been resolved. If there is still a problem then we would appreciate more specific information so we can address the issue.	Amber
16. Emails from ATNF staff. ATNF emails often come with an Outlook generated "winmail.dat" attachment, which is generally unreadable to non-ATNF people not using Outlook. This program wraps attached documents, making them impossible to unpack. While ATUC realises that this protocol is most likely CSIRO policy, we would like to recommend that ATNF consider the effect this has on communication with users.	This does indeed relate to CSIRO protocol. An investigation has been initiated through the IT service desk and any outcomes will be communicated.	Amber