



XXXI SCAR Delegates Meeting
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-11 August 2010

Agenda Item: 6.6
Person Responsible: John Storey

Report on Astronomy and Astrophysics from Antarctica

(AAA)

Executive Summary

Title: Report on Astronomy and Astrophysics from Antarctica (AAA)

Authors: John Storey, Chief Officer, AAA

Relevant URLs or references to other reports: The AAA SRP web site is at:

http://www.phys.unsw.edu.au/JACARA/AAA_SRP_webpage/

Introduction/Background: The SCAR AAA SRP Planning Group was proposed at the Hobart XXIX SCAR in 2006. Creation of the AAA SRP was approved at the Moscow XXX SCAR Delegates meeting in 2008, and AAA will hold its first formal meeting as a Scientific Research Program in August in Buenos Aires. The AAA Planning Group held two meetings during 2009: in Frascati, Italy and in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Important Issues or Factors: This is the first year that AAA is a Scientific Research Program. The Steering Committee has the same members as the SRP Planning Group, namely:

Philip Anderson	(United Kingdom)
Michael Burton	(Australia)
Xiangqun Cui	(China)
Nicolas Epchtein	(France)
Takashi Ichikawa	(Japan)
Albrecht Karle	(USA)
James Lloyd	(USA)
Silvia Masi	(Italy)
John Storey	(Australia) – Chief Officer
Lifan Wang	(China/USA)

The four Working Groups have now been established within AAA. They are:

- Working Group A: Site testing, validation and data archiving. Chair: Jon Lawrence, Vice-chair: Tony Travouillon
- Working Group B: Arctic site testing. Chair: Michael Andersen, Vice-chair: Eric Steinbring
- Working Group C: Science goals. Chair: Michael Burton, Vice-chair: Hans Zinnecker (TBC)
- Working Group D: Major new facilities. Chair: John Kovac, Vice-chair: Xuefei Gong

Recommendations/Actions and Justification: None.

Expected Benefits/Outcomes: NA

Partners: No formal partners, although the IAU is now a Union Member of SCAR

Budget Implications: Continuing funding is requested at the approved level.

Astronomy and Astrophysics from Antarctica (AAA)

Report for SCAR Delegates, May 2010

The proposal that led to the formation of the AAA SRP is available as a PDF file at:

http://www.phys.unsw.edu.au/JACARA/AAA_SRP_webpage/AAA_SRP_proposal.pdf

For the most part, the program has closely followed the outline given in that proposal.

As a newly-formed SRP, the main activity of the AAA SRP to date has been the establishment of a set of working groups to manage the operation of the program. Each of these working groups has been engaged in the formulation of detailed plans that will be discussed at the business meeting in Buenos Aires August 2010. These working groups are:

- Working Group A: Site testing, validation and data archiving. Chair: Jon Lawrence, Vice-chair: Tony Travouillon
- Working Group B: Arctic site testing. Chair: Michael Andersen, Vice-chair: Eric Steinbring
- Working Group C: Science goals. Chair: Michael Burton, Vice-chair: Hans Zinnecker (TBC)
- Working Group D: Major new facilities. Chair: John Kovac, Vice-chair: Xuefei Gong

Included in this activity has been a discussion with SCADM on the most appropriate way to handle the site-testing and astronomical data sets that already exist, plus the much greater volume that will be acquired in the coming years. Kim Finney, Chief Officer of SCADM, has joined the *Site testing, Validation and Data Archiving Working Group* of AAA, and is helping to draft appropriate protocols.

Publicity of SCAR AAA within both the astronomical and Antarctic research communities is ongoing. Fliers were distributed at the IAU General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro (2009). A talk on AAA will be delivered to the IPY Open Science Conference in Oslo (June 2010), and posters presentations made at:

- Astronomical Society of Australia annual meeting in Hobart (July 2010)
- SCAR Open Science Conference in Buenos Aires (August 2010)
- Astronomy & Astrophysics in Antarctica meeting in Xian, China (August 2010)
- Comprehensive Characterization of Astronomical sites meeting, Kislovodsk, Russia (October 2010)