

## **UK 8m Users Group Terms of Reference**

In the following, by "UG" is meant the UK 8m Users' Group.

[1] The role of the UG is to collect feedback, comments and suggestions from UK users of the Gemini telescopes and ESO VLT, in order to represent UK interests and opinions at the various ESO and Gemini committees (STC, GSC, Gemini OpsWG etc). The UG will engage in strategic discussions where the future of UK involvement in large observational facilities is concerned.

[2] The UG is an independent committee.

[3] The UG reports back to the UK astronomical community on a regular basis, via its website and the astrocommunity mailinglist, and to STFC and Gemini/ESO committee members via written reports and verbal briefings.

[4] The Chair of the UG is normally the UK representative on the ESO Users Committee; the term as UG Chair ends when the term as ESO Users Committee membership ends.

[5] The UG strives to maintain a well-balanced membership, representing a wide range of departments and research streams, whilst limiting its membership to maintain efficacy in its functioning. It is expected that each UK department with users of 8m-class facilities is represented by one UG member.

[6] Membership of the UG is indefinite, but members are expected to step down if this is in the interest of the efficacy of the UG.

[7] Members of the UG have the right to vote on matters concerning the structure and functioning of the UG and on any public statements it considers.

[8] Status as "observer" may be granted to preserve independence from the decisions of the UG whilst allowing to closely monitor and participate in discussions within the UG. Observers do not have the right to vote on UG matters, but they are free to undersign public statements made by the UG. Those who function on committees or the operational side of Gemini or ESO are automatically "observers", and invited to participate at UG meetings, but their department would normally be represented on the UG by someone else who would be a full UG member.

[9] The UG normally meets once a year in person, and once via teleconference. Additional meetings or electronic or telephonic discussions may take place.

[10] The Science and Technology Facilities Council reimburses the travel costs of the UG Chair to attend one yearly meeting within the UK. No other financial resources are available to the UG, in line with its independence.