

# STFC Astronomy Programme Update

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Science & Technology  
Facilities Council

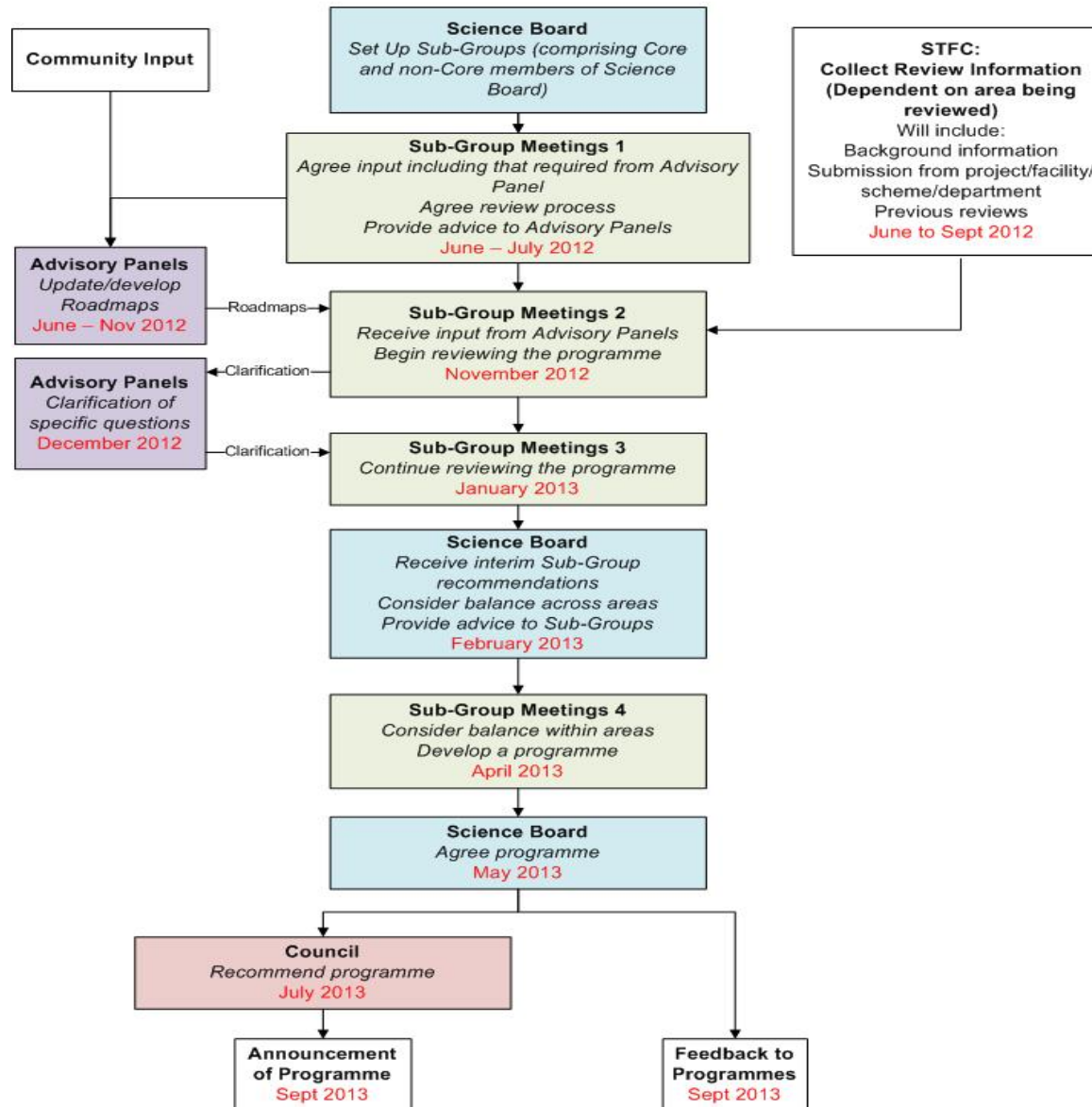
# Programmatic Review

- Being led by Science Board – in astronomy, supported by a PPAN sub-panel (John Butterworth chair) and other sub panels in specific areas;
- To inform STFC's future strategic and financial planning;
- To define appropriate research areas and recommend a research portfolio and planning timeline for STFC support to those research areas.
- To do this we need to
  - Prioritise projects / science areas
  - Optimise science and impact for a range of financial scenarios
  - Ensure there is balance in the programme



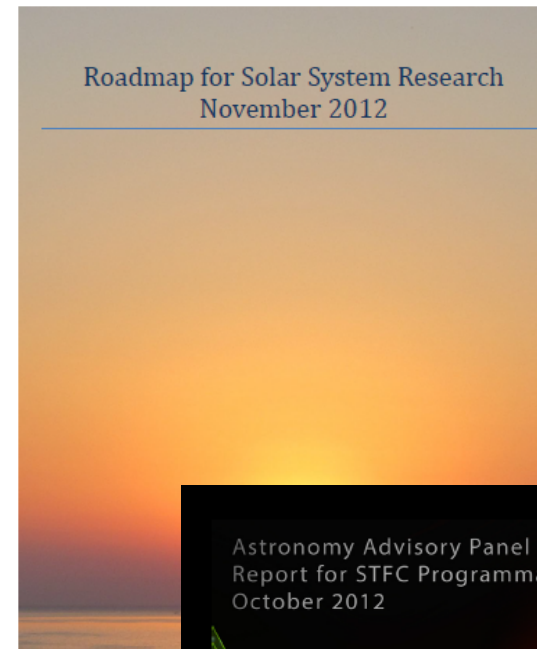
# Timescale for the Review

## Programmatic Review Process

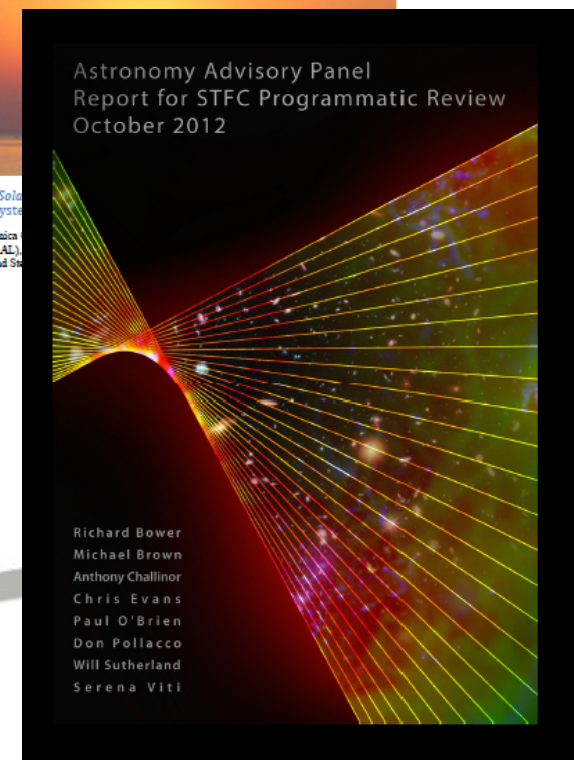


# The challenge

- Advisory Panels produced Roadmaps in their areas
- Discussion of science and facility priorities, and areas of UK strength
- Confronting the challenging resourcing framework:
- Balance of:
  - Facility operations (reducing)
  - New facility development (eg E-ELT, SKA)
  - Exploitation of current and future facilities (link with UKSA)



Prepared by the Solar System  
Solar System  
Panel membership: Monica  
(Oxford); Chris Davis (RAL),  
Rakha Jain (Sheffield) and St



Richard Bower  
Michael Brown  
Anthony Challinor  
Chris Evans  
Paul O'Brien  
Don Pollacco  
Will Sutherland  
Serena Viti

# Potential new projects

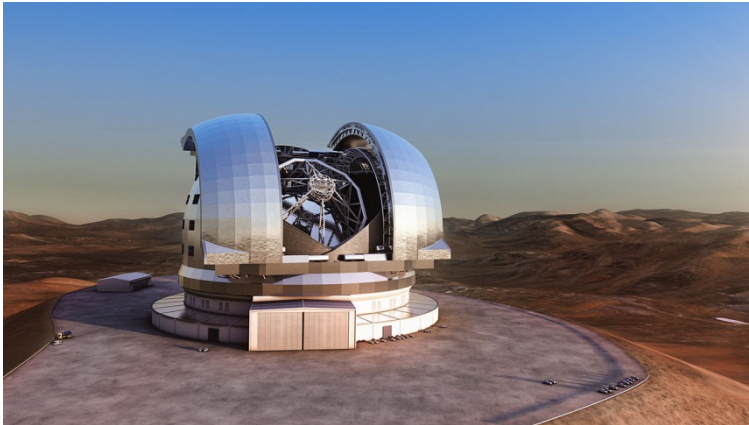
- AAP highlighting:
- ‘completion of various projects/continuing access’ – eg JCMT, eMERLIN
- NGTS – transit survey planet finder project
- LSST – support for operations in due course
- Instrumentation for VLT and others - spectrographs
- Northern hemisphere access
  - What support for some other northern 8-10m telescope?
  - What route?



# Other STFC issues

- As per AAP report
  - Question of balance in programme plus specific issues:
  - How to ensure a sensible portfolio of facility access – northern hemisphere access?
- Autumn statement:
  - Significant additional contribution to science infrastructure
  - Some ‘general support’ likely, but also support for campus development and specific mention of ‘Big Data’ = potential support for computing?
- Triennial Review:
  - Now starting through BIS
  - Reviewing role of research councils and their structure





# E-ELT

- STFC in final stages of process, hopefully leading to approval of UK commitment very soon;
- Provision for construction funding has been made in STFC's forward planning – needs BIS and Treasury approval;
- Instrumentation:
  - Continuing support for UK instrumentation programme
  - Immediate focus HARMONI as first light, but strategy assumes involvement in several other concepts (EAGLE, OPTIMOS, METIS)
  - Now UK interests in HIRES too
  - RAS community meeting endorsed need to keep broad involvement and be ready to respond to external decisions by ESO



# New instrumentation

- Significant interest in new spectrograph instrumentation for range of facilities:
- ESO
  - MOONS, 4MOST
- WHT
  - WEAVE
- Others
  - DES-Spec / BIGBoss (currently being combined by US)
- PPAN reviewed proposals in 2010 – initial development money provided. Decisions needed in 2013 on tactics and funding – timing tricky as review points unaligned





# ING and La Palma

- ING: Island sites review by Science Board in 2012
  - Outcome: Extend operations to 2015 and....
  - Progress WEAVE concept to decision point – assumes that long term operation of WHT needed to exploit WEAVE case
  - WEAVE PDR this Spring – PPRP proposal thereafter
  - Progress discussions on future ING governance, establishment of new legal entity, relationship with GTC etc – draft documentation being discussed
  - Review position post Prog Review – determine longer term programmatic
- Liverpool Telescope
  - Support into 2014, future dependent on Prog Review
  - LT management exploring future options for support model
  - Establishing 'LT2' project

