SALT Foundation (Pty) Ltd

56th BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF THE 56th BEC - 6th OCTOBER 2014 VIA SKYPE

PRESENT:

Prof M. Shara (MS) (Chair)
Prof B Chaboyer (BC) (member)
Dr D O'Donoghue (DOD) (member)

Dr D Buckley (DB) (SALT Astronomer)
Prof T Williams (TW) (SAAO Director)
Mr I Osman (IO) (SALT Finance Manager)
Mr C Coetzee (CC) (Tech Ops Manager)
Mr O Strydom (OS) (SALT Mechanical engineer)
Dr L Crause (LC) (SALT/SAAO HRS Commissioning)
Mr H Gajjar (HG) (SALT Engineer)

Apologies
Prof L Ramsey (LR) (BEC member)

CHAIRMAN: Prof M Shara

THESE DOCUMENTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION

1. WELCOME

MSh welcomed the BEC, via Skype.

2. BEC 55 MINUTES

The minutes were approved with the following correction:
Under SAMS - the following words “concluded and it can be accepted.” to be replaced with “received”

3. DIRECTORS REPORT

Refer Directors report-BEC 56 webpage

TW updated the status of the operations contract by saying that it needed both NRF corp executive as well as NRF board approval before Albert van Jaarsveld - CEO of the NRF will sign it off. These are basically rubber stamping steps.

4. TECH OPS REPORT

Refer Tech ops report-BEC 56 webpage

Only update was that the lower x rail of the tracker was to be taken off tomorrow with Durham taking off the HRS dewars.

5. RSS COLLIMATOR REPORT

Refer RSS Collimator Status report-BEC 56 webpage.

The question arose of whether there would be more UV efficiency with the clean up. OS replied that they were only achieving a throughput of 81% in the blue as opposed to an expected amount of 92-94%. This was due to either the coating or the optical surface having deteriorated. It was noted that anything below 400nm is an issue.

DOD mentioned that it was difficult getting to the bottom of the UV issue and this could lead to a possible schedule slip. In addition to testing coatings and surfaces, measuring the reflectance of the plano surface of the doublet will take time.

The question about whether the optics ever showed the full blue throughput as specified arose and it was noted that the pilot results were from the first six of the optics and the ATP did not show the test procedure results. This was in 2004.

6. INSTRUMENTATION REPORT

Refer Instrumentation report-BEC 56 webpage

It was noted that an IFU was to be included for the new spectrograph. The 74 inch will have a single ball lens feeding a single fibre and for SALT the baseline would be a 61 element,100 micron fibre IFU that Mathew Bershady and DOD is discussing. The view could also be expanded as more fibres can be installed along the slit.

7. SCIENCE REPORT

Refer Science report - BEC 56 webpage

No science this week and possibly next week due to HRS being taken off and bright moon. Tests to be done on tracker and closed loop on sensors.

8. SAMS

Refer SAMS report - BEC 56 webpage

Issues with focus and dihedral sensitivity. GROC mode is the first mode and dihedral sensitivityis to constrain this mode. Only 50% of mode is constrained. Error is either in mathematics or the lever ratio

8. HRS

Refer HRS report - BEC 56 webpage

LC reported that both red and blue camera to be disconnected. Ion pumps to be installed in Cape Town and a new shutter at SALT. Spare cryotiger system arriving this weekend. About 2 weeks for HRS to be put back on.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT

Refer financial report-BEC 56 webpage.

Budget in line with projections.

10.CANTERBURY

UC wants to pay half of next year's operations levy and wants to sell half of its shares. They are technically in default and the Board should deal with this. This will therefore be an agenda item at the next board meeting.

8. Meeting closed.