

Minutes of the 8th FIRST Common Science System Teleconference

FIRST/FSC/MOM/0160

The 8th FIRST Science Ground Segment Teleconference was held on 4-Oct-2000.

Participants:

O. Bauer (OHB)
T. Dimbylow (TGD)
A. Heras (AMH) – TOPs 1 & 2 only
J. Riedinger (JRR)
P. Roelfsema (PRR)
S. Veillat (SV)

TOP 1: Agreement on Agenda, MoM of FCSSMG Telecon #7, AI status

- The agenda (cf. JRR e-mail dd. 2-Oct-2000) was agreed. No additional items were requested.
- MoM of previous telecon: The statement that “*all IA modules that are intended for use by FSC (e.g. as part of QCP) or external astronomers (who can request download of IAs for different instruments from the FSC for use on their local machines) will be part of the FCSS and will be provided in Java*” was rediscussed under TOP 2.
- Action Items: At the time the draft agenda was circulated there had been no change in the AI status. OHB pointed out that earlier on the day of the telecon he had closed his AI to provide requirements to the FCSS URD that result from use of the FCSS in combination with the EGSE-ILT. This closure will be reflected in the next issue of the AI list.

It was **agreed** that JRR would include all AIs of interest to the FCSSMG in his spreadsheet for tracking and providing visibility of open AIs in a single place, e.g. AIs from UC WG meetings, FGSAG actions, and actions arising from FCSSMG telecons. It was also **agreed** that the FCSSMG would not go into discussions of a technical nature when reviewing the AI list (e.g. why it is difficult to close this action); it would simply state by when it is believed possible to close an overdue action in line with the urgency of an item.

TOP 2: IA/QLA inside or outside the FCSS

- OHB kicked this off by expressing his concern that experienced users/scientists will not be keen on learning to write IA code in JAVA; having to migrate this community to JAVA might slow down or make it altogether impossible to obtain inputs to IA from this critical source of input to IA.
- ICCs would like to use (J)Python (scripting language which calls JAVA applets) in IA (as a replacement for e.g. IDL). Use of (J)Python has not yet been considered by the FSCDT.

Action 041000/1: FSCDT to investigate whether use of (J)Python would be an option as IA scripting language within the FCSS architecture/framework. Due: 20-Oct-2000.

Informally, TGD will investigate whether (J)Python provides the required functionality and environment that scientists are used to getting with IDL.

- AMH: The PST has generated a list of draft requirements on IA from the perspective of a scientific user (e.g. calibration scientist). These need to be reviewed and agreed before they can be included in the FCSS URD.

Action 041000/2: AMH to distribute draft user requirements on IA. Due: 6-Oct-2000.

Action 041000/3: ICCs (calibration scientists in particular) and FSCDT to review draft user requirements on IA and send written comments to AMH. Due: 13-Oct-2000.

- The three ICCs **agreed** that by the time community astronomers get to see it, IA will be part of the common system with instrument-specific extensions. Everyone **agreed** that it would be a pity if this commonality were not already started off in the IA/QLA used for ILT.

Action 041000/4: All ICCs to confirm or otherwise that their IA/QLA for ILT will go into the Core Class Model. Due: 20-Oct-2000.

TOP 3: Development standards

- All ICCs **agreed** that they will adhere to the applicable standards in their contributions to the FCSS development.
- Draft 0.2 of the proposed coding standards have been circulated by the FSCDT.

Action 041000/5: All ICCs to provide their comments to the proposed coding standards (FSCDT/TN-009, Draft 2) for FCSS development. Due: 31-Oct-2000.

TOP 4: UC splinter WGs

- It was recognised by all that the envisaged date of 13-Oct-2000 for a presentation of analyses of the essential UCs cannot be met because the splinter groups could not co-locate sufficiently to perform this analysis, the outcome of which has to flow into the initial CCM for ILT. It was also recognised that a slip in establishing this initial CCM-ILT in sufficient detail to start work on FCSS v0.1 will in the very near future lead to a schedule slip on a one-day-per-day basis. In particular, if the slot for the FCSS SRR/v0.1 PDR is missed and such a review cannot be closed out with the essential conclusions from the Review Board being available before Xmas, we can forget about any FCSS v0.1 delivery in October 2001.
- In this context, JRR pointed out that a letter from the Project Scientist and Project Manager could be sent to the PIs to draw their attention to this impending delay unless drastic measures were taken to correct the situation in time for the SRR/v0.1 PDR to take place end of this year as planned.

Both SPIRE and HIFI would welcome such a letter as they have repeatedly pointed out to their management that urgent action needs to be taken; e.g. the paper work to obtain a replacement for a departed team member at RAL had been done in July, the person has been identified, but nothing seems to be happening despite frequent reminders and management statements that things are “on their way”.

PACS stated that such a letter might not be well received at MPE unless it were very specific and to the point about where ESA sees the problem and which teams are perceived as not being able to staff the necessary effort.

JRR stated that he would discuss this with the Project Scientist following the telecon. [The outcome of this discussion was that GP will initially contact the PIs “in private” to decide on the best way to proceed in this matter in such a way that the problem can be solved effectively and constructively instead of leading to more delays by inserting rounds of mud-slinging matches. However, if no real action gets under way by the second half of October and if we therefore miss the slot for the SRR/v0.1 PDR, the damage will already have been done.]

- In parallel to GP’s effort, the FCSSMG agreed to support co-location of the UC splinter WGs for 2 times 2 days before end-October in the case of the “ILT” and “Products” groups, possibly somewhat less for the “Operations” group (which is significantly more advanced in their analysis effort, although the work, which has been mostly done in the FSCDT, needs to be seriously reviewed by the ICCs). As most members of the UC WG have 13-Oct-2000 in their diaries for UC

Meeting #6, this day will be used by the splinter groups, some of which might be able to use the day before to turn this into the first “co-location block”.

TOP 5: WBS/Work Packages

- FSCDT have further elaborated on their proposed WBS and started to hang WPS into this structure for Elaboration Phase Part 2, which is the subject of the joint SPMP for the common development of the FCSS.

Action 041000/6: JRR to distribute the FSCDT WBS/WPs to the other teams. Due: 6-Oct-2000.

- The ICC teams will attempt to use this proposal to define their own WPs within this structure. The next FCSSMG telecon on 13-Oct-2000 will establish how much progress has been made by then and will conclude what still needs to be done in preparation of the FCSSMG meeting on 18-Oct-2000 at Edinburgh, at which we have to agree the SPMP body, the WPs, and the distribution of WPs to individual development sites.

TOP 6: AOB and next meeting

- JRR has started to convert the body of the FSCS SPMP Issue 1 to the joint FCSS SPMP Issue 2. As this SPMP (without WPs and schedules) has been promised to Project by 20-Oct-2000 (to help them start to prepare for the FCSS/EGSE-ILT review on 30-Oct-2000), “final” wording for the textual parts of the SPMP needs to be agreed on 18-Oct-2000.

Action 041000/7: JRR to distribute the body of the proposed FCSS SPMP Issue 2.0 to the ICC managers for a detailed review on 18-Oct-2000. Due: 11-Oct-2000.

- Preparation of FGSSE/EGSE-WG meeting on 9/10-Oct-2000:
 - EGSE-URD Draft 3 has been received.
 - The FGSDD (ILT-part) was re-issued.
 - The FGS-IRD will be re-issued on 5-Oct-2000.
 - OHB will send consolidated PACS comments on documentation on 7-Oct-2000.
 - Some of the requirements from EGSE-URD Draft 2, which will go into the FGS-IRD and FCSS-URD (as identified in OHB’s e-mail dd. 4-Oct-2000 (which requirements need to be extracted) and in SV’s e-mail dd. 4-Oct-2000 (which extracted requirement goes into which document) need rephrasing.
 - Being on leave, TGD cannot coordinate SPIRE comments on the documents. Ken and Sunil may provide their comments individually.
 - The HIFI comments have already been incorporated into the FGS-IRD and the ILT-section of the FGSDD by quite extensive co-operation of SV/PRR in re-issuing these documents.

Action 041000/8: OHB to provide rephrased requirements to the joint FGSSE/EGSE-WG meeting. Due: 9-Oct-2000.

- FCSSMG Telecon #9 will be held at 13:00 on 13-October-2000. The major item on the agenda will be to establish the progress made on WBS/WPs.

JRR, 5-Oct-2000