

# Project VISTA

## A review of its progress and overview of the current programme

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### ABSTRACT

The Visible and Infrared Survey Telescope for Astronomy (VISTA) project started in 2000 following a Joint Infrastructure Fund award to a consortium of 18 Universities within the UK<sup>1</sup>. The UK ATC was contracted to manage the project of developing and building the telescope. VISTA is planned to be a 4-m class telescope with the ability to mount both visible and infrared cameras, not concurrently. The design is an F/1 resulting in a rather shorter telescope than originally foreseen, but with some demanding design issues. The UK ATC proposed to manage the project in two phases. The initial phase was intended to review the proposed design and carry out a conceptual study. The result would be to propose what could be delivered for the available funding. The second phase would be the design and build phase. The second phase is now well on its way through the manufacturing phase with the Enclosure complete and Factory Acceptance of the other parts achieved. Integration on site, at ESO Paranal, has commenced. This paper will review the current status of the project and identify the lessons learned in the management, contractual approach and risk and safety management to date.

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<sup>1</sup> The VISTA Consortium is led by Queen Mary University of London and consists of: Queen Mary University of London, Queen's University of Belfast, The University of Birmingham, University of Cambridge, Cardiff University, University of Central Lancashire, University of Durham, The University of Edinburgh, University of Hertfordshire, Keele University, Leicester University, Liverpool John Moores University, University of Nottingham, University of Oxford, University of St Andrews, University of Southampton, University of Sussex, University College London