UKIRT:
Current Status and Breaking News

Professor Gary Davis, Director
Science From UKIDSS IV
1st June 2012
Minimalist Mode for UKIRT

Strategy:

- reduce operational cost of UKIRT such that

$$\text{cost}(\text{JCMT+UKIRT}) - \text{cost}(\text{JCMT alone}) \approx \text{external income}$$

Implementation:

- streamlined science programme
- remote telescope operations
- reduced access to engineering & software support
- no operational or development projects

Status:

- adopted 16th December 2010
Time Lost to Weather
Time Lost to Weather

![Graph showing weather loss over time with labeled axes.](image)

- **Minimalist Mode**
- **Long-term average**

Science with UKIDSS IV
1st June 2012
Time Lost to Faults
Time Lost to Faults

- Minimalist Mode
- WFACQ1 crash (9.0hr)
- Dome PLC (8.0hr)
- Top-end comms (9.7hr)
- Telescope at limits (9.0hr)
- Air dryer (9.0hr)
Time Lost to Faults

Remote closure (0.4hr)

Minimalist Mode
Productivity

The chart shows the productivity over the years from 1992 to 2012. The y-axis represents the number of publications, ranging from 0 to 250. The x-axis represents the years, from 1992 to 2012. The chart includes three categories: Projected, UKIDSS, and Other. The year 2012 is highlighted with a note indicating 138 publications.
Productivity

![Bar chart showing productivity from 1992 to 2012. The chart includes projected, UKIDSS, and other categories. Notable numbers: 138 for 2010 and 228 for 2012.]
Productivity

The graph shows the trend of productivity from 2000 to 2012 for various telescopes and institutions:
- **UKIRT**
- **VLT/4**
- **Keck/2**
- **Gemini/2**
- **Subaru**

The x-axis represents the years from 2000 to 2012, while the y-axis represents the number of publications. The graph illustrates an increasing trend in productivity for all the listed institutions, with particularly significant growth in the later years for UKIRT and Subaru.
Science Programme 12A/12B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Night</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Closed, Engineering, DDT</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UH PI</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UH Survey</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEOU</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KASI</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>365</td>
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Priorities in UK Time:
- GRB override
- UKIDSS UDS
- UKIDSS (until 22 May)
- UHS (after 15 Jun)
- WTS
Funding Status

STFC Prioritisation 2009:

- UPF not approved, UKIRT ranked low ⇒ minimalist mode
- operational funding confirmed to 31st March 2012
- then extended to 31st March 2013 ⇒ UHS year 1

Extension Proposal:

- submitted November 2011, based on SCUBA-2 for JCMT
- requested extension of operational support to 31st March 2016
- assessed by Science Board
- announcement yesterday: STFC will cease operational support for UKIRT on 30th September 2013
  - (one year earlier than JCMT)
What Next?

Should you make a fuss?

- YES - but STFC’s decision is a done deal

Science programme to 30 Sep 2013

- 130 nights uncommitted
- Board will issue a Call for Proposals - large programmes consistent with minimalist mode operations

Further extension to 30 Sep 2014

- cost differential to keep UKIRT running in minimalist mode alongside JCMT is £100k
  - subject to various assumptions, caveats and risks
- suppose someone were to come up with this cash?
What Next for UKIRT?

Site lease options:

- give or sell UKIRT to UH
- sell UKIRT to a third party with UH approval
- decommission the telescope and restore the site
Final Thoughts

UKIRT has been a fabulously successful telescope, serving the UK astronomy community for over 32 years.

Reasons for our success:

- the site
- the telescope
- the instrumentation
- the common-user operation
- CASU and WFAU

But the main reason...
Final Thoughts

UKIRT has been a fabulously successful telescope, serving the UK astronomy community for over 32 years.