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### Organisation of the aips++ project management

It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of Gareth Hunt to the position of aips++ project manager. With the indefinite involvement of Bob Hjellming as the project astronomer and Brian Glendenning as the project computing scientist, the triad of senior aips++ staff that will determine the face of aips++ in the years ahead has now been determined. Although the administrative centre of the aips++ project will be in Charlottesville, actual work done for the centre will be shared between Charlottesville and Socorro, as appropriate and as resources permit.

The three senior staff members will act in close consultation on all matters related to the conduct of the project. Each one, however, has his own specific authorities and responsibilities. These are detailed below.

#### Project Manager

The prime responsibility of the project manager is the administration of the project. He will therefore:

- guide and monitor progress of the aips++ project, both at the centre and at the consortium sites, through the establishment of milestones, time lines, etc.;
- coordinates development and documentation activities between the centre and the consortium sites, including the establishment of "software contracts";
- write monthly progress reports for the aips++ steering committee, weekly bulletins for more general consumption and a summary progress report for each committee meeting;
- establishes manpower and money budgets for the aips++ centre, and administers these once they have been allocated;
- with the Chairman of the aips++ committee, establishes the agenda for each steering committee meeting, including the procurement of all necessary papers, editing of minutes, etc.;
- organizes the logistic support for staff at the centre;
- attends and actively participates in all technical meetings of the aips++ centre, in particular those dealing with analysis and design issues.

In order to fulfill this task, the project manager has the authority to:

- assign centre staff to various parts of the project;
- establish "software contracts" between the centre and the consortium members;
- disburs any monies allocated to the aips++ project.

#### Project Astronomer.

The prime responsibility of the project astronomer is to ensure the astronomical correctness of the aips++ product. To fulfill that task he needs to:

- take full responsibility for the establishment of requirements,

including consultation with the consortium partners and the astronomical community at large;

- spearhead the object oriented analysis of these requirements, so that they are guaranteed to be accurate, complete and in a form suitable for object oriented design;
- participate in the object oriented design of the product;
- ensure that suitable astronomers work with the project whenever that is indicated;
- ensure that proper end-user tests are done to ensure that the astronomical content and form of the end-product is appropriate;
- ensure that all end-user oriented documentation (e.g. cook books, reference manuals, help systems) is written and that it is correct.

#### Project Computer Scientist.

The prime responsibility of the project computer scientist is to ensure that the implementation of the aips++ project is optimal. To fulfill this task he needs to:

- take full responsibility for the implementation of aips++;
- spearhead the object oriented design of aips++, so that trade-offs are properly chosen, and easy maintenance and extensibility are promoted;
- participate in the object oriented analysis of the requirements;
- ensure that appropriate computer scientists participate in the project whenever indicated;
- ensure the formal correctness of the end-product;
- ensure that all system-oriented documentation (e.g. class documentation, programming guidelines, etc.) are written and correct.

#### Conclusions.

Although, as I have said before, a major requirement is that the senior people work closely together on all major decisions, each of them has a prime area of authority:

the project astronomer decides WHAT needs to be done;  
the project computer scientist decides HOW it is done, and  
the project manager decides by WHOM and WHEN it is done.

If, in the course of time, some irreconcilable differences of opinion develop (a quite unlikely occurrence), the points at issue will be conveyed to the aips++ steering committee for arbitration.

Geoff Croes