( Monthly updates and Schedule Information )

Month: October, 2006

Information on software schedule is included at the end of this report.

Faculty and Staff Progress:

R. Pogge: Continuing to make progress on the MODS UI requirements, with the goal of finishing use cases and design requirements documents in December. Started work with Paul Martini to generate use cases and software design requirements documents for the slit mask design and manufacturing software. Will continue through this quarter.

Continue working with the RETROCAM user interface software that is one the main prototype test bed for the MODS imaging-mode GUI. In particular, I have been working on enhancements to the scripting utility suggested by users in the field, and hope to have the next major update ready to deploy in November.

Working with Jerry Mason and Bruce Atwood on the interface code for the MDM4K camera, the first deployment of a MODS first-light 4Kx4K detector with the current generation of the OSU controller architecture (this is our fall-back for first light if there insuperable difficulties arise in the development of Bruce's next-generation CCD controller). The first field test of the MDM4K camera is scheduled to begin October 31 and run for a week at the MDM 1.3m

Working with Jerry Mason on getting the IIF and TCS software running at OSU. Jerry is doing the main work with Alex at LBTO, once that is up and running, I'll start in on a prototype TCS Agent tool to start learning how to use the IIF library.

Reviewing possible in-house collaborative documentation systems. Jerry Mason set up a spare Linux box in the lab to act as a web server and host, soon to be turned over to David Will for setup of the web server. I am currently looking at two candidate documentation systems: DocuWiki, which is used in the College (so we have local help), and Twiki, which is being used by the software group at LBTO.

J. Mason: Hardware for the LBT TCS hardware simulator was assembled and tested, also setup our own documentation repository. I've been in touch with Alex at LBT, but he hasn't gotten back to me yet with the kickstart configuration we need to make the TCS machine work.

Assembled the hardware Phil Covington is using to develop the next generation detector readout electronics that will use the PCI Express bus.
Started the first generation 4K Camera readout software written and debugged for engineering tests this week at MDM. Since first light MODS will use an identical detector, this is an important milestone for MODS detector development.

Attended the LBTO Instrument Workshop (Sept. 30 - Oct. 5)

Also, I did the usual round of purchasing tasks for MODS, and other non-MODS related ordering, shipping, schedule and other duties

**Gonzalez:** Evaluated the current software schedule and made adjustments where needed for the major software parts. And presented it and the MODS Software Project to the Board on Oct. 16, 2006.

Setup a verity of MODS Demos for the Board of Directors visit.

Continuing the ongoing process of documentation and other duties involving testing and evaluating instruments.

Continuing to setup ISL system. Tests are ongoing using the Slitmask/AGW stage setup in the Lab. All parts of ISL are still being checked to make sure all programs associated with the ISL system will function properly before other changes are made on MODS1

Began the process of PLC Beta program generation for the mechanisms.

Among other addition, added RA, DEC, AZ, EL parameters to Shared Memory.

Attended the LBTO Workshop at the University of Arizona in Tucson AZ, and presented the MODS Project Software design. (Sept. 30 - Oct. 6)

Continues the ongoing process of documentation and other duties involving testing and evaluating instruments.

Setup MODS 1 with shared memory and installed the ISL system. Tests have began using the Slitmask/AGW stage setup in the Lab. All parts of the ISL will be checked and recheck to make sure all programs associated with the ISL system will function properly before other changes are made.

**Planned Work For Next Month 2006:**

**R. Pogge:** Work on the MODS GUI, Slit Mask, and RETROCAM will continue.

**J. Mason:** Work will continue on the MDM system, IIF, TCS and Document computer.

Also work on daily issues of ordering, shipping, plus other MODS related duties.

**R. Gonzalez:** Hopefully, an overview of the software from March 2005 when I came to the OSU Astronomy department to the present will be given in a Gantt format on or before Dec, 2006.
ISL software tests and implementations on MODS 1.

I will work on scripts to make the installation of MODS 2 easier.

**MODS Software Project Schedule:**

http://www.astronomy.osu.edu/~rgonzale/modsMechSoft.html

click on [MODS Software Data Sheets] for the menu, then click on Schedule