Report on DES Activities to the DES-WG (revised).

The text that follows was extracted from the notes of the DES Management Committee Telecon of August 14, 2007 that were prepared by Doug Tucker and John Peoples

1. Status of the DES Proposal to the NSF

The status of the DES proposal to DOE and NSF is shown in the FastLane system and it changed from "Under Consideration" to "Recommended" on August 2. This means that the Astronomy Division has recommended to the NSF Contracts and Grants Division that the DES DM part of the proposal should be funded. Furthermore they recommend that the funding begin on August 1. Nigel Sharp, our program officer in NSF-AST, has stated that the funding for the proposal is in his budget so that we should be receiving authorization to spend money. In October 2006 Robin Staffin and Wayne Van Citters requested that DES submit a proposal that described all aspects of DES in order that they could evaluate all of DES. It was submitted to NSF by FRA and UIUC through FastLane in January and DES only requested funds for Data Management at NCSA/UIUC and some Collaboration support, which would be administered by FRA.

The recommendation was made the day after Wayne Van Citters, the head of NSF Astronomy, and Robin Staffin, the head of DOE-HEP, talked on the phone. Robin sought a verbal commitment that NSF would go forward with DES in addition to their exchange of mail messages on July 5. Kathy Turner, who participated in the call, said that the call went well. Nigel Sharp also participated in the call.

The proposal provides NCSA-UIUC with approximately $650K for 15 months, from August 1, 2007 to October 30, 2008. It also provides FRA with about $50K for travel to collaboration meetings and the rental costs for a booth at one AAS meeting per year. The annual rate of funding is at the requested level although it is only for 15 months instead of the 40 months that we requested. We (DES) will need to submit a new proposal for Data Management for period November 1, 2007 to first light (at least to the late fall of 2010) to the NSF by the first week in December. DES will need to define the scope of the proposal during the next two months and the scope will need to fully address the recommendations in the report of the 1st joint review of DES that are relevant to Data Management and Science if we expect the NSF to fund the proposal.

2. Report on the August 10 meeting of the JOG at NSF Headquarters

Final Agenda for the DES JOG August 10, 2007
NSF Headquarters, Room 1020; 9 AM to noon EDT

Presentation of the plan to submit a new proposal to the NSF for DES DM and the FNAL-NCSA-NOAO DES-MoU, including the community needs process, the community pipeline and the community use of DECam. A draft of the MOU was sent to NSF and DOE on August 8 to for their information. J Peoples (20 min)

Comments from the 3 Directors on DES and the MOU (20 min)

Presentation of the DES DM Project Leader (Joe Mohr- 30 min)

Presentation of the strategy and plan to implement DES DM, responses to the recommendations in the report of the 1st joint review, including a description of what has been done so far to address the report recommendations for data management requirements and the interfaces with the Science Committee Working Groups (WGs)

Presentation of the DES DM Project Manager (Cristina Beldica- 20 min)

Description of milestones, accomplishments, and manpower for the DES DM plan with the 15 month funding (August 1, 2007 to October 31, 2008).

Presentation of the co-Chair of the Science Committee (Josh Frieman 20 min)

Response to the key science recommendations and K. Turner's questions of 17 July 2007 and description of what the Science Committee's Working Groups (WG's) are doing and how the WG's and the DES DM are developing a program to coordinate data management and science post processing

Presentation by the DECam Project Manager (Brenna Flaugher 20 min): Highlights of accomplishments during the last three months (May 1- August 5).

Discussion of the MOU with NSF and DOE (20 min) and reserve (30 min)

The purposes of the August 10 JOG meeting were:

1. To present the DES-FNAL-NCSA-NOAO MOU to DOE and NSF,
2. To give the 3 Directors the opportunity to comment on DES and the MOU,
3. To present the DES Plan for Data Management (DES DM) and to describe the DES plan to use the 15 months of funding directly to some of the key leadership of the NSF-AST and DOE-HEP.
4. To demonstrate that science working groups have been organized and that they are working on defining the requirements for the interfaces between the science software that each working group must produce and the DES DM system software, and
5. To highlight recent progress on DECam.

The attendees from the NSF were Ellen Friel, Executive Officer for NSF-AST; Craig Foltz, who is in charge of the NSF Astronomical Facilities; Thom Barnes, who is in charge of NOAO (including CTIO), which is part of Foltz's facility enterprise; Vernon Pankonin, who is responsible for mid-size projects; and Nigel Sharp, who is responsible for individual investigator grants and for DES. In addition, Marv Goldberg, Jim Whitmore, and Beverly Berger from the NSF Physics Division attended. Mike Procario; Glenn Crawford, the Deputy to Robin Staffin DOE-HEP; Kathy Turner, the DOE program officer for astrophysics and the DOE-HEP lead for DES; and Paul Philp, from the DOE site office at Fermilab and the Federal Project Director also attended. Friel, Berger, Goldberg, and Whitmore stayed through the first three presentations (1-1/2 hours) and everyone else stayed until the end. This was a very good turnout. We accomplished all five objectives.

3. Status of the DES-FNAL-NCSA-NOAO MOU

John reported on August 10 discussion of the MOU. He noted that a lot of people have worked on the Big MOU over past month and have gotten it into a pretty decent shape but it is not ready to sign. At the August 10 JOG the 3 Directors stated that the MOU is pointed in the right direction and that it needed more work before it could be signed. NOAO had taken issue with the way that the Community Pipeline was presented in the MOU. In particular Todd Boroson said that the MOU did not clearly state who in DES was responsible for producing the pipeline. These issues were resolved on Friday afternoon when John Peoples, Joe Mohr, Cristina Beldica, Chris Smith and Todd Boroson met at URA HQ after the meeting at NSF. They agreed that DES DM team had two deliverables that needed to be clearly described in the MOU: the DES DM system and the Community Needs Pipeline. They agreed that the Community pipeline is clearly an NCSA responsibility. The next revision of the MOU, which will be completed by August 24, will describe the Community Pipeline as part of the DES DM Project. Chris Smith presented in detail the features that he would like to see in the Community Pipeline, none of which were terrifying to DES DM

During the MC meeting John P reported that Mont would like to add a section to the MOU which defined a Resource Board which would act as a point of contact between the DES institutions and the funding agencies. This proposed Resource Board would meet roughly once a year with the Council. It could play a similar role as the Advisory Council does in the SDSS. Josh noted that the SDSS Advisory Council meets once a year and has clearly defined roles; if a DES Resource Board is formed, it should also have clearly defined roles.

All Institutional members of the DES Management Committee members will need to read it, because they will need to sign off on it.

4. Need for DES-Institution MOUs

MOUs with DES Management Committee and each participating institution are needed for several reasons, including the need to show that UCL plans to do research with survey created by DECam and that they are building part of DECam for the DES Collaboration. These MOUs will help DES to avoid paying VAT on the glass blanks when they are imported into the EU for final polishing and mounting in the barrel. John will send copies of the Penn MOU to the institutions that will pay for the glass blanks, as well as UCL. These MOUs will state that DES participants at the collaborating institutions will have access to the DES data and data products and the right to participate in all Collaboration activities in exchange for contributing to the construction of the DES project.

These DES-institution MOUs are necessary, but they do not replace the DECam MOUs with Fermilab.