Report from the LSST Project Science Team face-to-face meeting, SLAC, July 1-2, 2019

The meeting started with the LSST Project Director, Steve Kahn, reporting in detail on NSF’s plans for naming the LSST observatory after Vera Rubin, and on agencies’ guidelines for international in-kind contributions to LSST operations. The meeting continued with the Subsystem Scientists presenting progress. In particular, Sandrine Thomas described criteria on the dome completion required to continue with the TMA assembly. Steve Ritz introduced a new memo that describes the strategy for placement of rafts with sensors from two different vendors within the focal plane (Doc-33785), and reported that L1 and L2 lenses are ready for shipment. Leanne Guy reported the progress with LSST Science Platform development and its potential use for serving HSC public data release.

Continuing technical discussions included a number of topics. A discussion of Qserv and alternatives/enhancements such as Dask/Spark, in response to AMCL request for revisiting this issue, was led by Fritz Mueller and Wil O’Mullane. Their conclusion was that the least risk to the Project at this point is to remain committed to Qserv at least through the end of construction and into the beginning of operations (for more details, see PSTN-003). Leanne Guy led the discussion of options for alert production during LSST Operations Year 1 (that is, prior to DR1, see DMTN-107). Data Management Subsystem Science Team will continue this discussion with various LSST stakeholders. Sandrine Thomas led a discussion of revised LSST Control Software architecture (for details, see LSE-150).

Bo Xin presented an update on LSST performance tracking (see Doc-35146), Peter Yoachim presented an update on Feature Based Scheduler (a replacement for OpSim, see Doc-35147), and Leanne Guy provided a summary of the outcomes from the recent “Broker workshop” in Seattle, for more details see https://project.lsst.org/meetings/cbw/ At the end of formal part of the meeting, Tony Tyson provided a report on SpaceX’s plans to develop a network of satellites called Starlink, which would provide “internet to everyone”. If this network will have as many satellites as advertised (perhaps up to 50,000), it could have a non-negligible impact on LSST survey.

Finally, the PST members had a free-form discussion of the various issues that “keep them up at night”. The list included premature loss of personnel, camera schedule, TMA schedule, stove piping, unexpected sensor defects and similar effects, subsystem integration, “Robert”, mis-assignment of talent, lack of sense of urgency, to name but a few...