

## LRPIC report to CASCA Dec 2020

LRPIC has had fewer than usual meetings in the past months, as LRP2020 has been in its final drafting. We have passed to CASCA some reflections on past issues and how our mandate and functioning may be improved for the next decade, and await expected new terms of reference for the committee. We have also had informal discussions with the CASCA president, the CSA science advisor, and the SAB chair. The LRPIC chair has also attended meetings and discussions with JCSA, AACs, ACURA, and the Coalition as they have occurred.

The membership of LRPIC and its regular observers have remained as before, and notably include the LRP2020 chairs, the CSA science advisor, and HAA DG. We are grateful to all for their attention and participation.

We note one significant new development in the abrupt and unexpected cancellation by ESA of the SPICA project (one of the top LRP2020 priorities). This has led to the equally abrupt stop-work on a SPICA technology contract by CSA. We are hoping that more clarity and a way forward will emerge as these issues evolve. LRP2020 will be reworded to indicate priority of joining an IR space mission if SPICA does not proceed.

The recent CFI proposal round involved several LRP initiatives, which has been noted by LRPIC for some time. The announcement on Nov 18, although not publically released, affects the following: MSE, LSST (Rubin), CCAT-prime (Fred Young), JCMT, CHORD, and EELT participation. Only the Young and CHORD proposals were approved, leaving plans for the others in varying states of uncertainty. We are in discussion with Canadian leadership in the latter, as new plans or needs are emerging.

We note that commitment to joining SKA is needed by July 2021 and Coalition lobbying efforts are in preparation to support the request for \$290m over 10 years. CSA and ISRO are beginning discussions on significant collaboration in the CASTOR mission - the top-ranked space facility in LRP2020.

The continued lack of evident process and progress on the TMT and Maunakea political issues is noted, and we urge that information be made available for the entire community regarding these vital matters for Canadian ground-based astronomy and its future. This affects many of our major facilities, both existing and planned-future ones.

These concerns will likely need attention once LRP2020 is issued and LRPIC begins a new phase of more responsive activity.