

IUE USERS' COMMITTEE
REPORT ON THE MEETING OF APRIL 2, 1984

The (U.S.) users' committee of the IUE met at Goddard on Monday, April 2, 1984. During this meeting, several issues of potential interest to the entire community of IUE users were discussed. The publication of this report is intended to serve two purposes: to inform the user community, and to solicit input for future meetings of the IUE users' committee.

The users' committee heard status reports on a number of systems and studies being carried out at Goddard regarding the IUE; most of these will be reported separately in the Newsletter. Of particular interest: Dr. C. Imhoff presented a report on progress on the new ITF calibration for the LWR camera, requested by the Users' Committee in its September meeting due to an increase in problems with the LWR and the recommended conversion to using the LWP as the prime instrument. Considering her experience that the ITF calibration process has been considerably improved, that many telescope parameters are changing with time in a way which affects the ITFs, that the satellite lifetime may be limited (and hence the opportunity for a "terminal calibration" may be lost) and that the current ITF for the LWP camera has some significant problems, the committee recommended that the requisite observing time (about three days) be set aside for a new ITF calibration run as soon as possible.

In response to questions from the committee regarding the length of time which elapses between the submission of proposals in October and notification of PIs in March, Dr. K. Kalinowski prepared a summary of the review process and the constraints which affect this calendar. Several suggestions were made for shortening this process, but none of them were ultimately found practical.

Dr. Kalinowski also reported on the results of a cost-study, done at the request of the users' committee in September, regarding the cost of producing photowrites for the VILSPA observations from the archives, to be placed in the Goddard browse file. The project is estimated to take 1 - 1.5 years, and cost between \$25,000 and \$40,000, since the computer time required would not be charged to the project. In view of the modest cost, the value to users of the browse file capability, and the ultimate advantage of having these images in the archives, the committee recommended that this project be undertaken.

Preliminary results of a questionnaire sent to seventh year PIs regarding interest in remote observing were also presented. Of 118 PIs polled, 44 had replied by 3/30/84. Of those responding, 10 were eligible and interested; 12 were eligible but not interested; 22 deemed their projects not suitable. In response to the question of whether the PI could obtain the required instrumentation, only 3 PIs said yes -- all three at Chicago, where the equipment is already available. Dr. Kalinowski presented a cost estimate for two options for implementing remote observing: (a) Goddard provides the necessary equipment at that end, PI provides equipment needed at his/her institution: cost to IUE about \$30,000 (including backup capability); (b) Goddard provides all the equipment needed: cost to IUE about \$60,000, including backup capability. The committee reluctantly recommended against implementing such a capability at this time; although there was general support of the remote observing concept, these were outweighed by the practical considerations of finite (and unknown) future satellite lifetime,

cost-effectiveness if the finite shipping time for the equipment is included (estimating 1-2 remote observing "episodes"/month, for a year, the cost is roughly 10 times the usual travel costs), and the relatively unenthusiastic response of PIs to the questionnaire. The cost-effectiveness to IUE would be much higher if major PI institutions were to invest in the required equipment; but only one institution expressed such interest, and it essentially has that capability at present. The users' committee did, however, strongly endorse a suggestion that the funds for this be sought outside the IUE budget with the justification being to test the remote user operation for future implementation with ST and other space facilities. This issue may be raised again at the next users' committee meeting if more enthusiastic responses are received from the rest of the PIs.

The major issue which is likely to occupy most of the discussion time at the next users' committee meeting was introduced by Dr. Y. Kondo: planning ahead towards the end of the project. Included in this issue are a number of concerns: What should be done with funding committed to GOs whose observing time is scheduled when the satellite fails? Presumably many projects, but not all, could be converted into archival projects. How long should we anticipate that archival requests will be coming in? In what form should the accumulated archives be left: should the entire database be reprocessed with the best calibrations available? Should a series of routine reduction programs be run on every usable observation before the RDAFs close and the reduction software becomes unavailable or obsolete? Should this material be archived only, or should portions of it be "published" in some form? How long will the RDAFs need to continue?

Two related items regarding the RDAFs was introduced by Dr. Kondo for discussion for next time: (1) should the relative funding of the two RDAFs be tied to usage? and (2) currently, usage is "free" to any astronomer, regardless of whether he or she has current IUE support. This may not continue to be feasible; in that event, how should usage be allocated?

The next meeting of the IUE users' committee will be held at Goddard on Sept. 14, 1984. The members of the users' committee (listed below) would appreciate input from the rest of the IUE users on these and other relevant issues in advance of that meeting.

For the Users' Committee,



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Members:

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| A. Cowley, Arizona State | G. E. McCluskey, Lehigh University |
| J. Kaler, University of Illinois | J. C. Raymond, CfA, Cambridge MA |
| A. L. Lane, JPL | *E. M. Sion, Villanova |
| J. L. Linsky, JILA | P. Szkody, University of Washington |
| *P. L. Massey, KPNO | L. A. Willson, Iowa State (Chair, 1984) |
- * replacing D. Lambert and K. Hackney