

The Board notes with sadness the recent announcement from NWO that it will be unable to remain a partner in the JCMT beyond the end of the current funding arrangements in March 2013. Astronomers from The Netherlands have played an enormously influential role in the development of the facility since it started operation in 1987, and they will continue to do so as science operations with the new SCUBA-2 instrument commence later this year. We regret this decision but recognize the funding and strategic pressures that have resulted in this planned withdrawal.

The Board has agreed that it will work diligently in the remaining twenty months of the tripartite relationship to ensure that the promise of JCMT science in the SCUBA-2 era is realised for all three national communities. It has also agreed that Netherlands astronomers who are members of the JCMT Legacy Survey teams can remain so beyond March 2013. General non-survey access to the JCMT will remain available to Netherlands astronomers through the existing time allocation process for non-partner, international time.

The Board is looking forward to a future for JCMT beyond March 2013, and it will work with the Director in the coming months to develop the plans needed to continue the JCMT's reputation for scientific excellence and to exploit our new world-leading instrument capability. In particular, the Board will explore the possibility of new partners or entities joining the JCMT or participating in its programmes, and in doing so, seek to expand the reach and impact of JCMT science around the world.

We thank our colleagues from The Netherlands for their many contributions in support of the JCMT, including their on-going commitment to the observatory through to March 31, 2013 and wish them well in all their future endeavours.