



NEWS

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LARGE SYNOPTIC SURVEY TELESCOPE PROJECT BECOMES AURA CENTER

October 11, 2011

Washington -- The Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) and the LSST Corporation (LSSTC) announced an agreement that establishes the LSST construction project as an operating center under AURA management. Under this agreement, which became effective October 1, 2011, AURA accepts fiduciary responsibility for the LSST construction phase.

The agreement brings together AURA's long-term management experience with the substantial scientific and technical expertise developed by LSSTC over the past decade. Under the agreement, AURA and LSSTC create a new management council to oversee the project activities and ensure ongoing community input and engagement.

Today, a full LSST construction proposal was submitted to the National Science Foundation designating the President of AURA as the Principal Investigator. This proposal follows the successful Preliminary Design Review of the LSST Project conducted by the NSF during the week of August 29th.

In commenting on the new arrangement, Dr. Dan Clemens of Boston University, Chair of the AURA Board, said "AURA and LSST Corp have joined in a powerful alliance that takes advantage of the unique capabilities and strengths of both organizations. Together, we all look forward to seeing LSST begin its construction phase."

John Schaefer, Chair of the LSST Corporation Board, said "The LSSTC member institutions and the project team have brought the construction successfully through the Preliminary Design Review. We look forward to working closely with AURA to meet the even greater challenges that lie ahead."