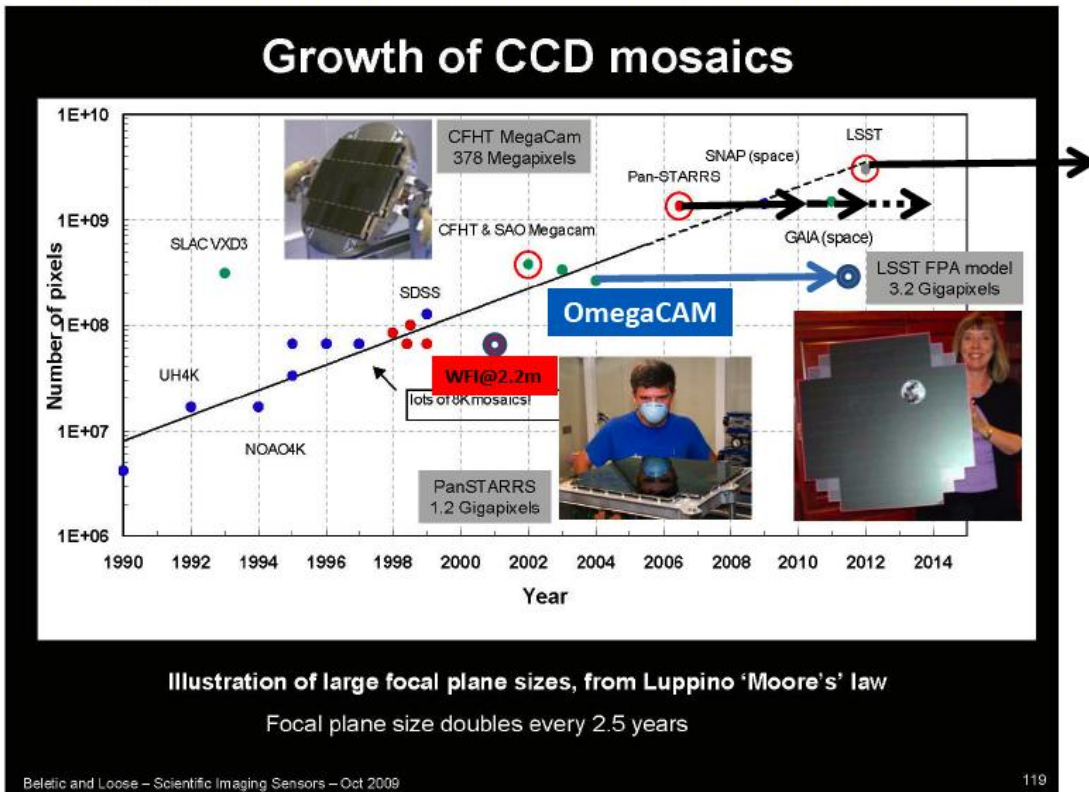


## RECOMMENDATIONS

-PSP recognizes the considerable progress made in the VST readiness during the last year. Completion of the integration of the hardware is scheduled through December 2010 to be followed by an extended commissioning phase, to end in July 2011. The PSP encourages the VST project and ESO to speed up the commissioning process as much as possible, without compromising the performance, to ensure a prompt availability of the telescope to carry out the survey programs.

-The PSP heard presentation from the PIs of the Public Survey programs and is convinced that the selected programs are still compelling and will provide unique scientific results IF carried out without further delay. Given the planned availability of competing telescopes and instruments, VST's characteristics, such as its expected excellent image quality and ultraviolet sensitivity, will make it a unique telescope/instrument for a period as long as 2-3 years after commissioning. Therefore, ESO must do its best to complete the Public Survey over a 3 year period after commissioning. In particular the ATLAS survey should be completed within a 2 year period, if at all possible, since the DES survey will directly compete with it after that time.

### OmegaCAM: Where does it stand relative to others?



-ESO should delay opening the VST to new projects until the Public Surveys have been substantially completed. In particular we STRONGLY recommend that all of the available observing time for the first two years be used for Public Surveys and GTO programs.

-Scheduling priority should be given to Public Surveys over GTO programs to allow the completion of Public Surveys programs in time.

-After larger survey telescopes come on line, VST will continue to offer interesting opportunities, but will most likely no longer be competitive with newer surveys. Nevertheless, specialized observing programs, for example extended whole sky “u” band surveys, will still provide exciting scientific opportunities.

-The PIs described changes and additions to their original programs. They were requested to submit to ESO a 2-3 page science case describing these changes by the 8<sup>th</sup> of October. These will be reviewed by the PSP, which will make its recommendations to ESO. The PSP believes that the nature of these changes and additions is modest and should not require further iterations prior to a decision by the DG.

As an input to STC’s discussions for new-generation wide field spectrographs, the teams were encouraged to state their long-term needs for spectroscopic follow-up with existing or future facilities.

-The PSP heard presentations on the data management plans and data pipelines and was favorably impressed with their readiness. These pipelines are already being used for VISTA data and will easily accommodate the additional load from VST. Some changes in the processing will be needed but the software has been developed and tested. The PSP would like to encourage some cross evaluation of the results between different pipelines. In addition the PSP encourages the detailed documentation of the algorithms and the processes so that these pipelines can be fully understood and maintained in the future.

-ESO will request revised management plans to be submitted some time by May-June 2011. ESO will announce the date once the commissioning plan is better defined. As in the past, the PSP will comment on the revised management plans.

-The PSP takes note of the GTO programs as presented by the INAF and OmegaCam Italian representatives. We noted that there were a few potential conflicts, but the proposed observations were either considerably deeper or shallower than the Public Surveys programs. The PSP requested that the GTO’s and Public Surveys PIs of the overlapping programs discuss these overlaps and agree, in writing, to procedures to obtain and share the data. The written agreements should then be sent to ESO for the record.

-In the event that the teams cannot agree, the PSP recommends that the Public Surveys programs get scheduling priority and are implemented ahead of the GTO programs.