



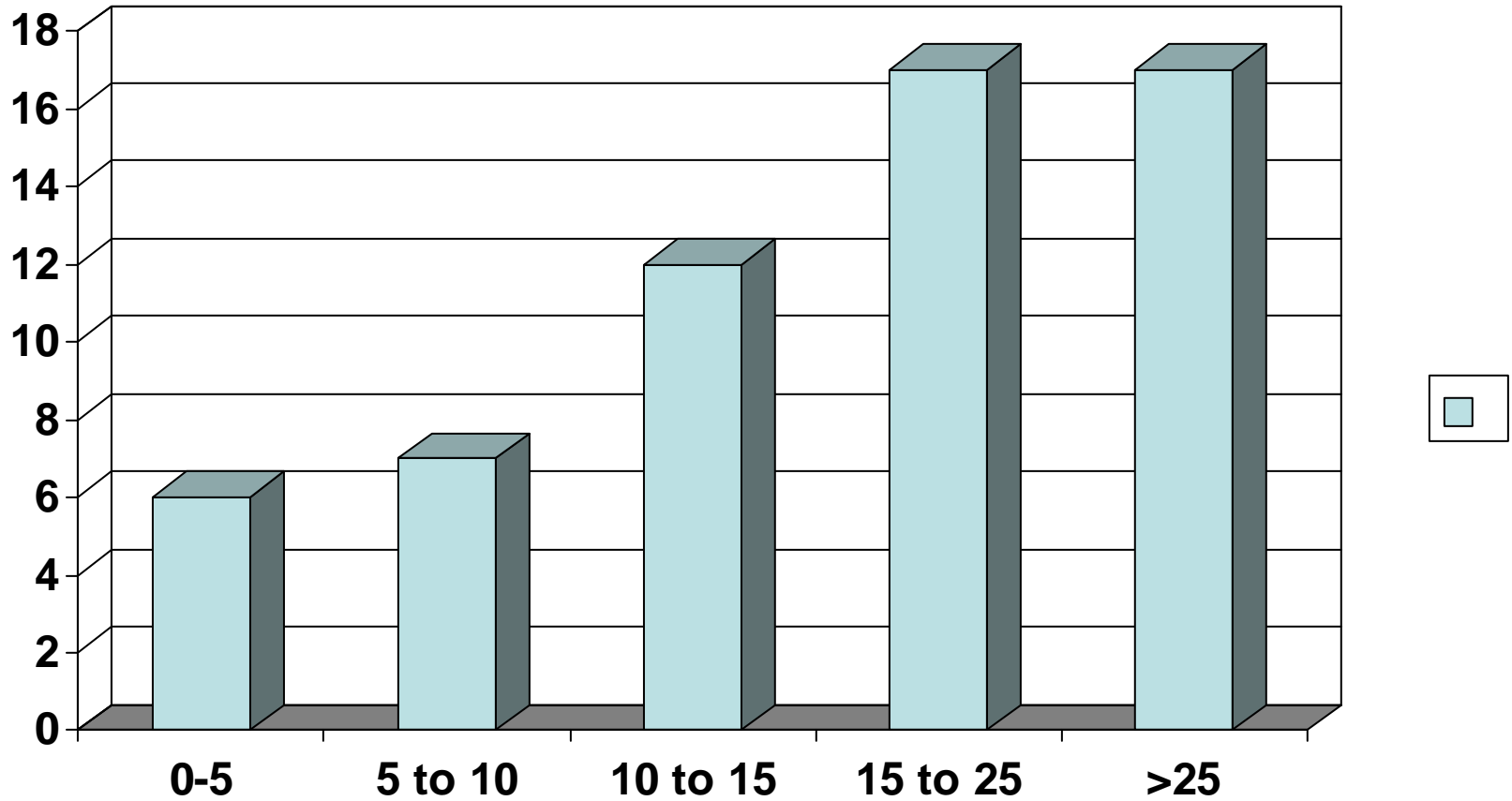
ESO membership poll

Conducted by AAL

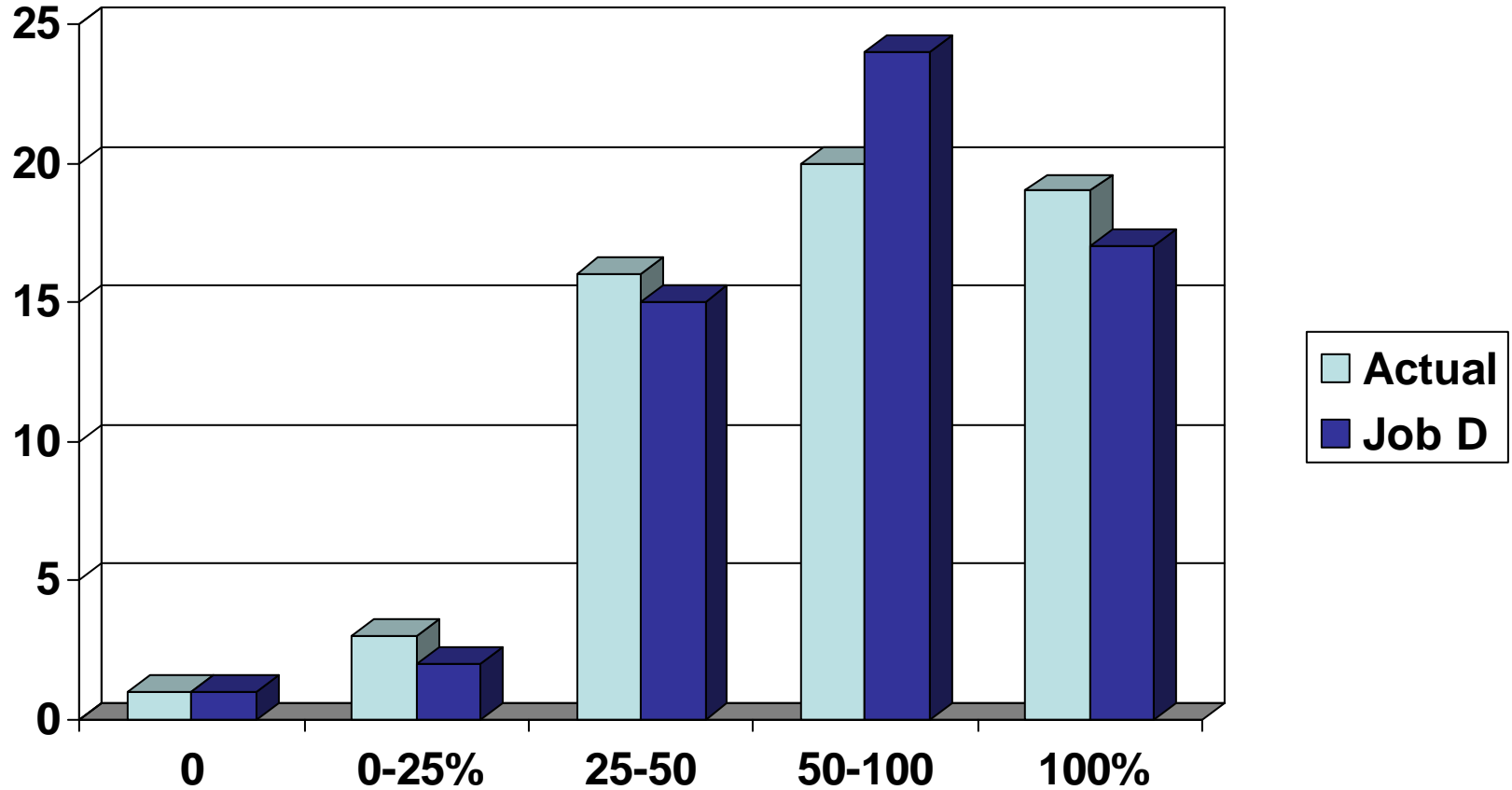
April 2009

Sample = 59 returns, population = ASA members

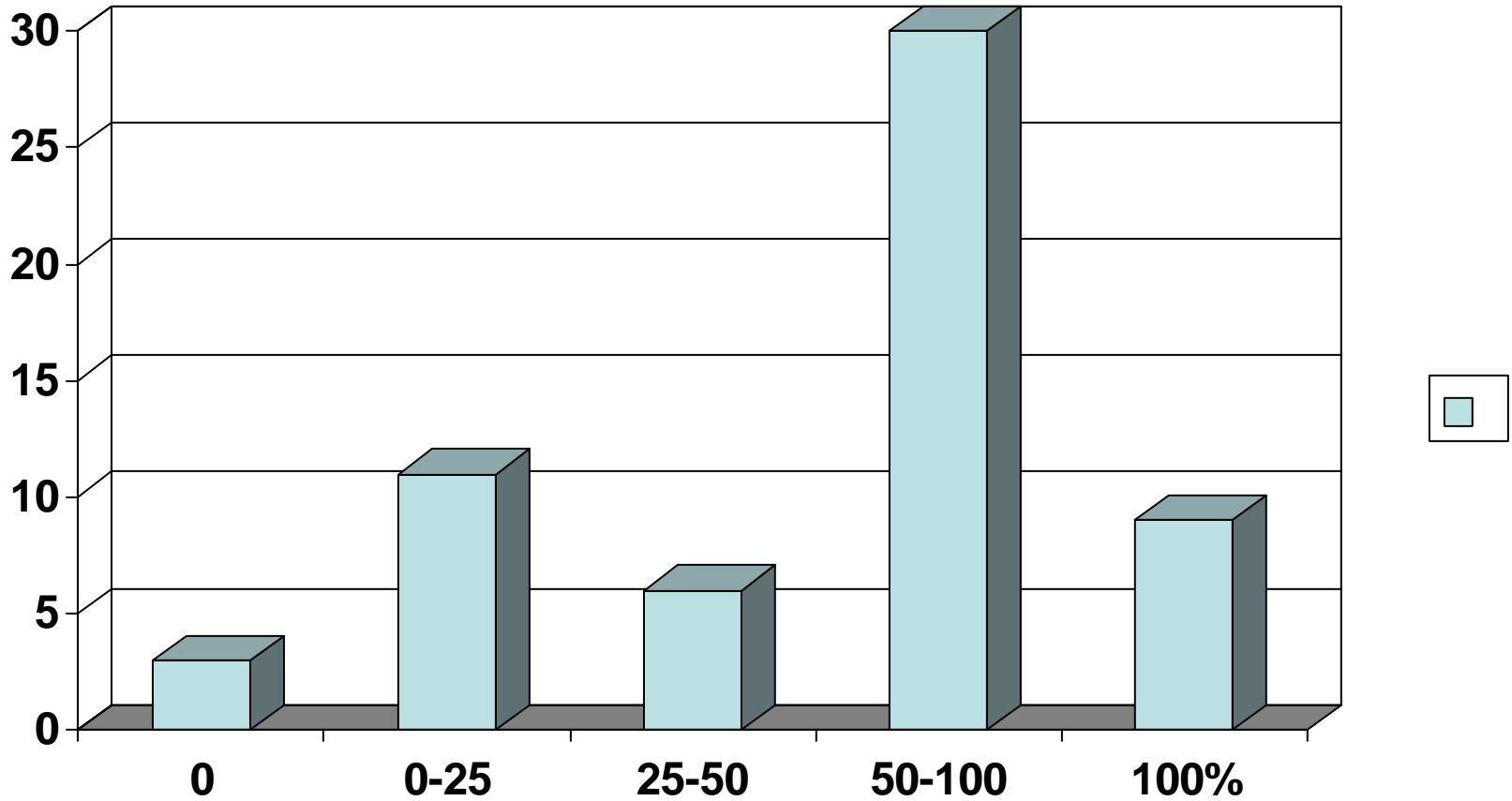
Years of experience in astronomy



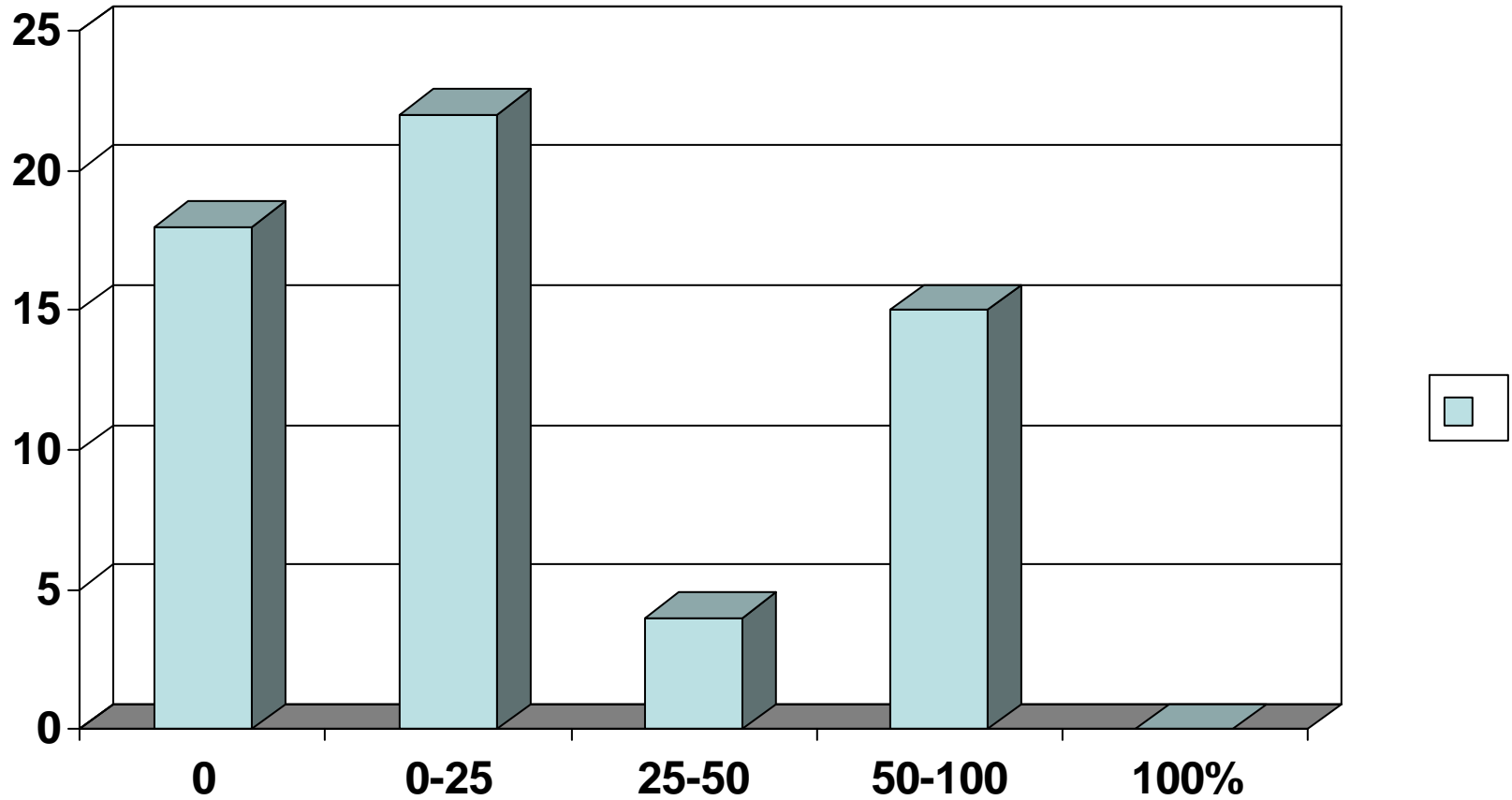
Fraction of time on research



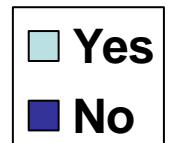
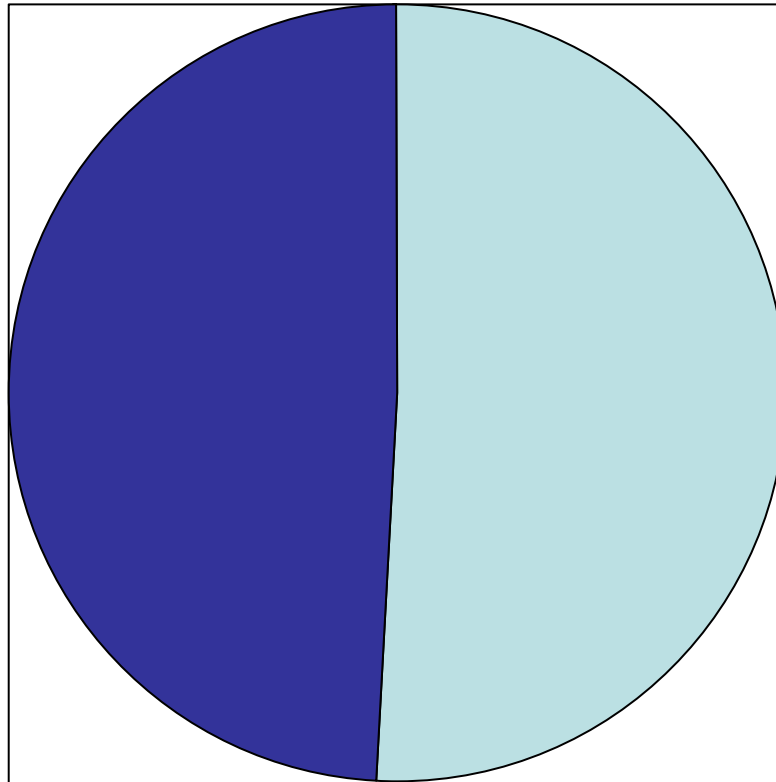
Fraction time spent on optical



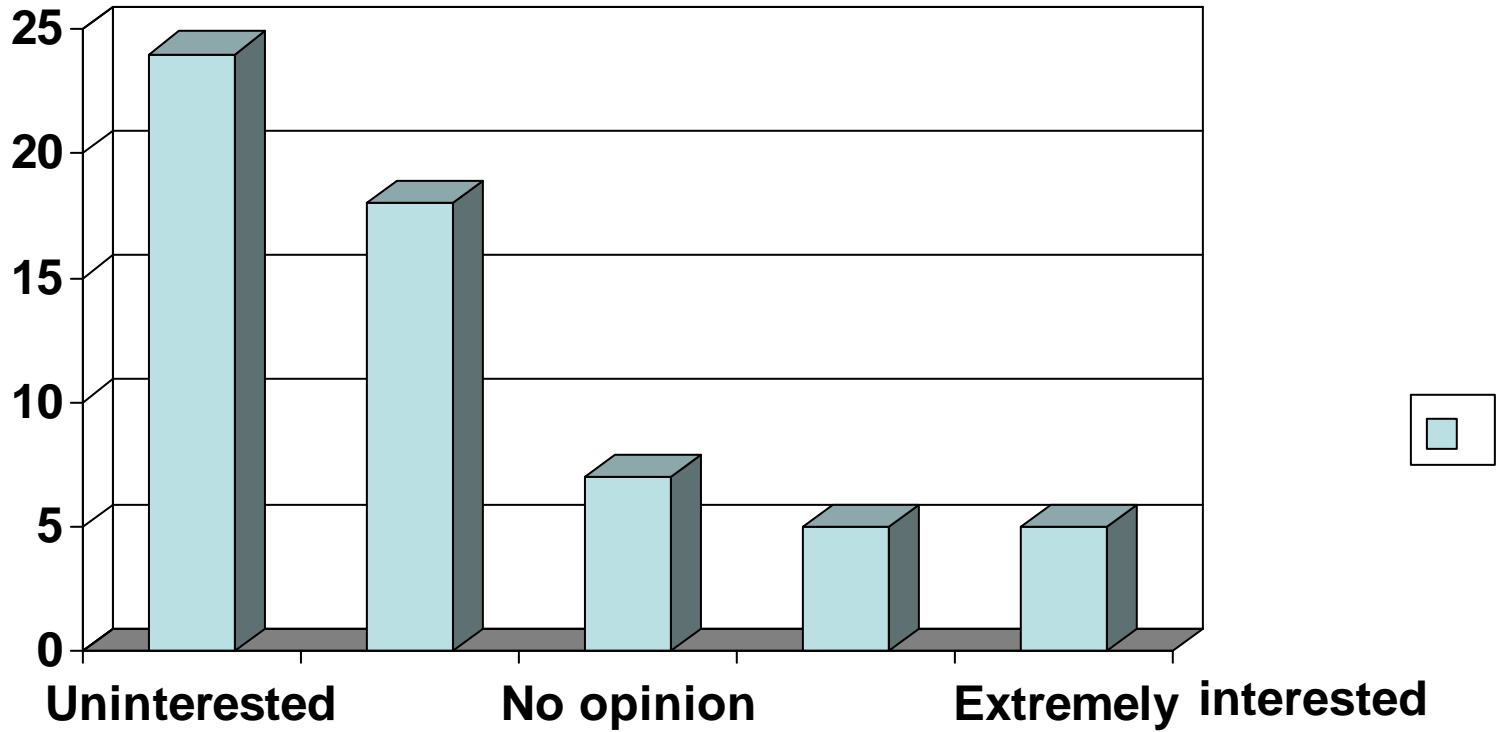
Fraction time spent on radio



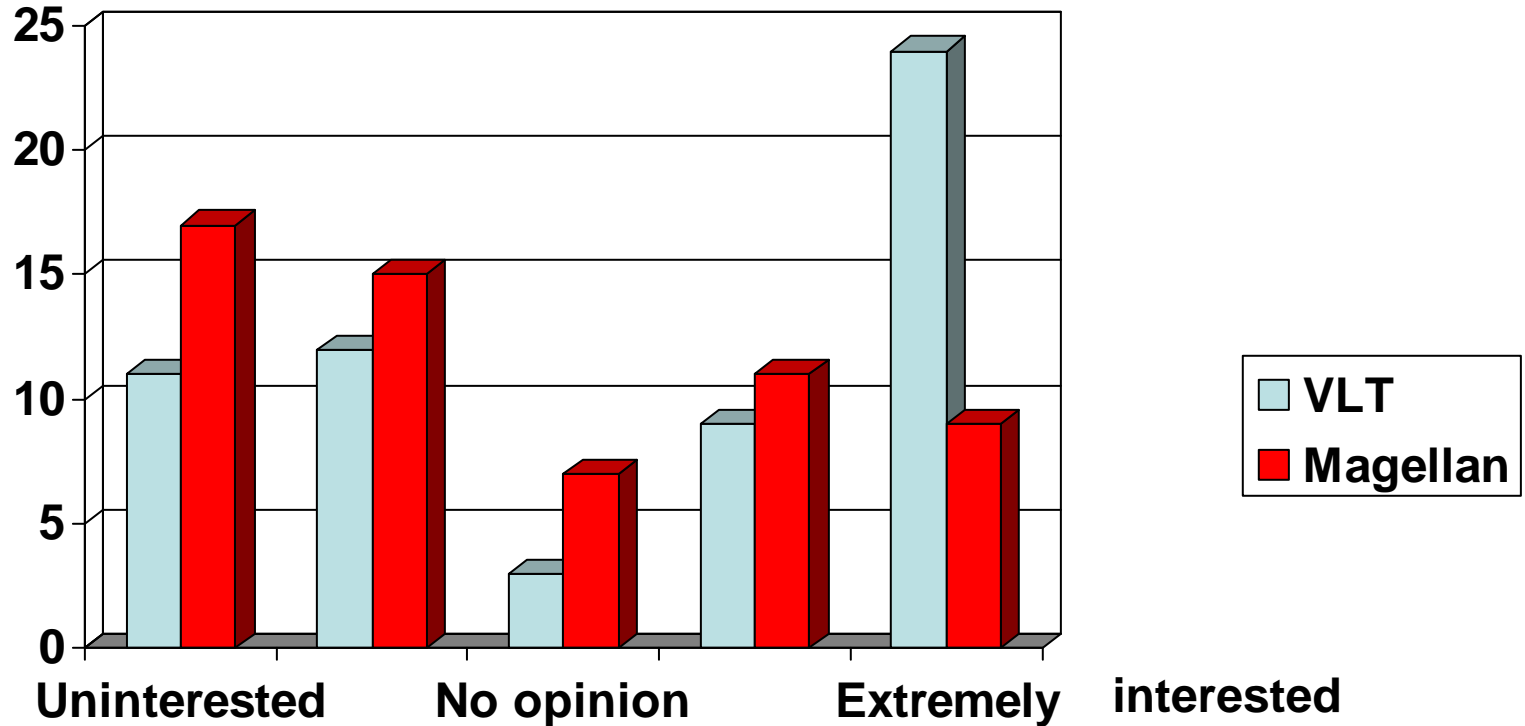
Worked on instrumentation in the
past 10 years?



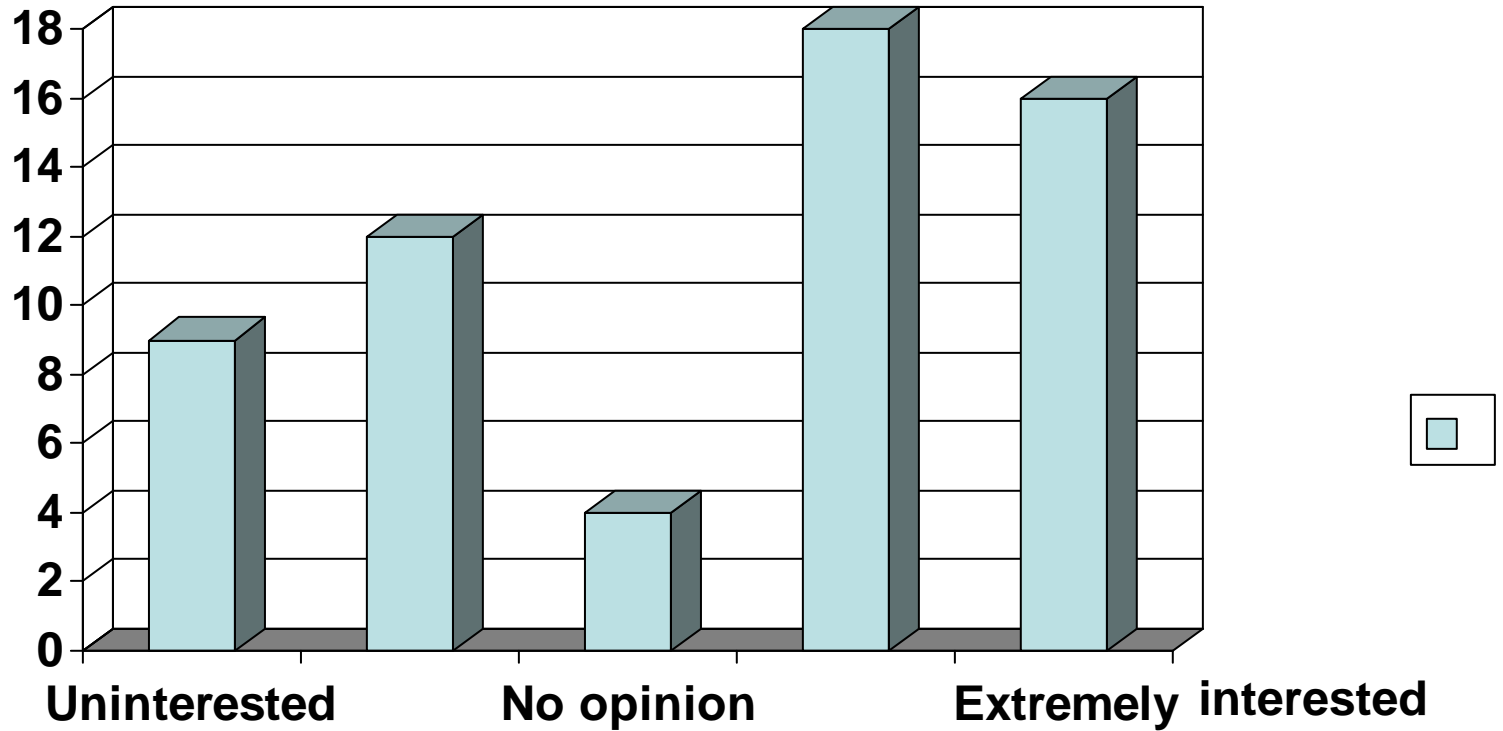
VLTJ



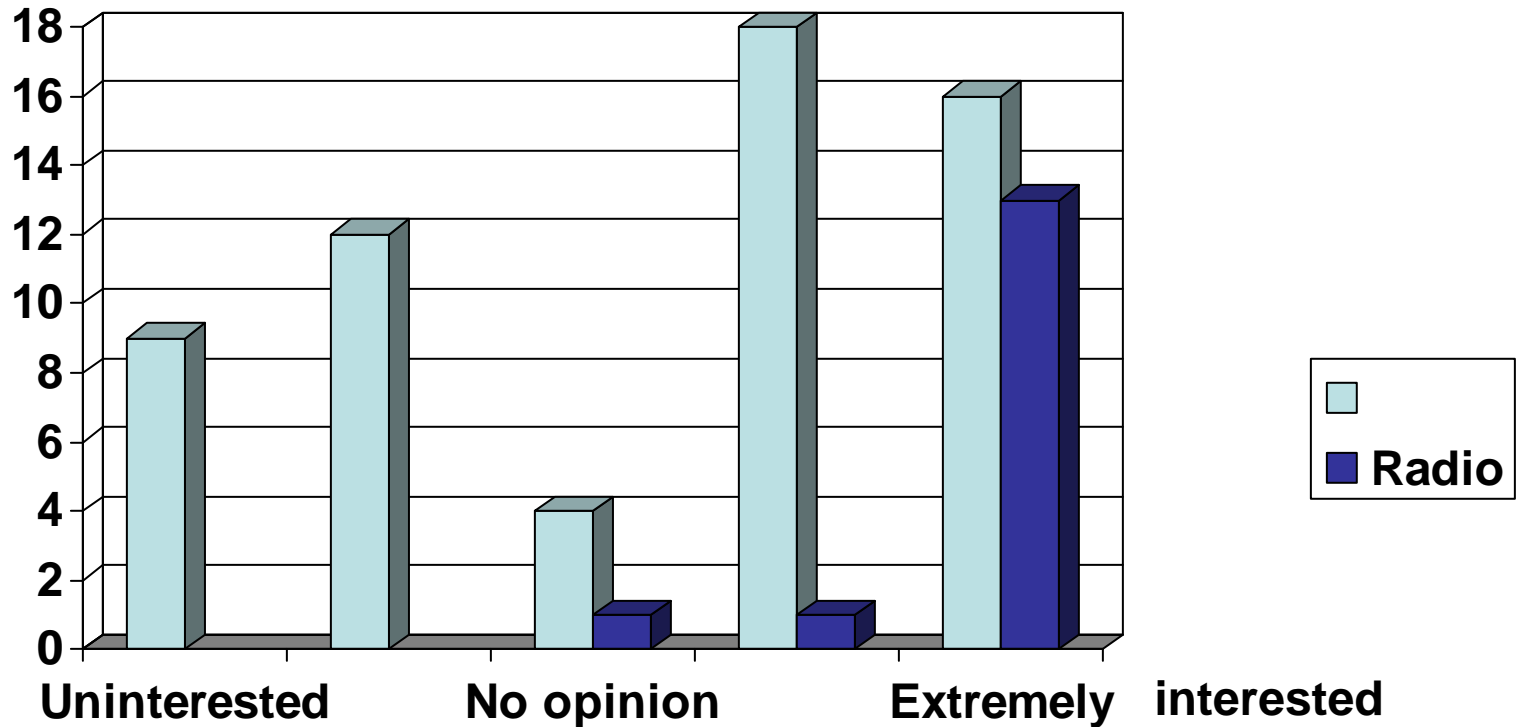
High resolution spectroscopy



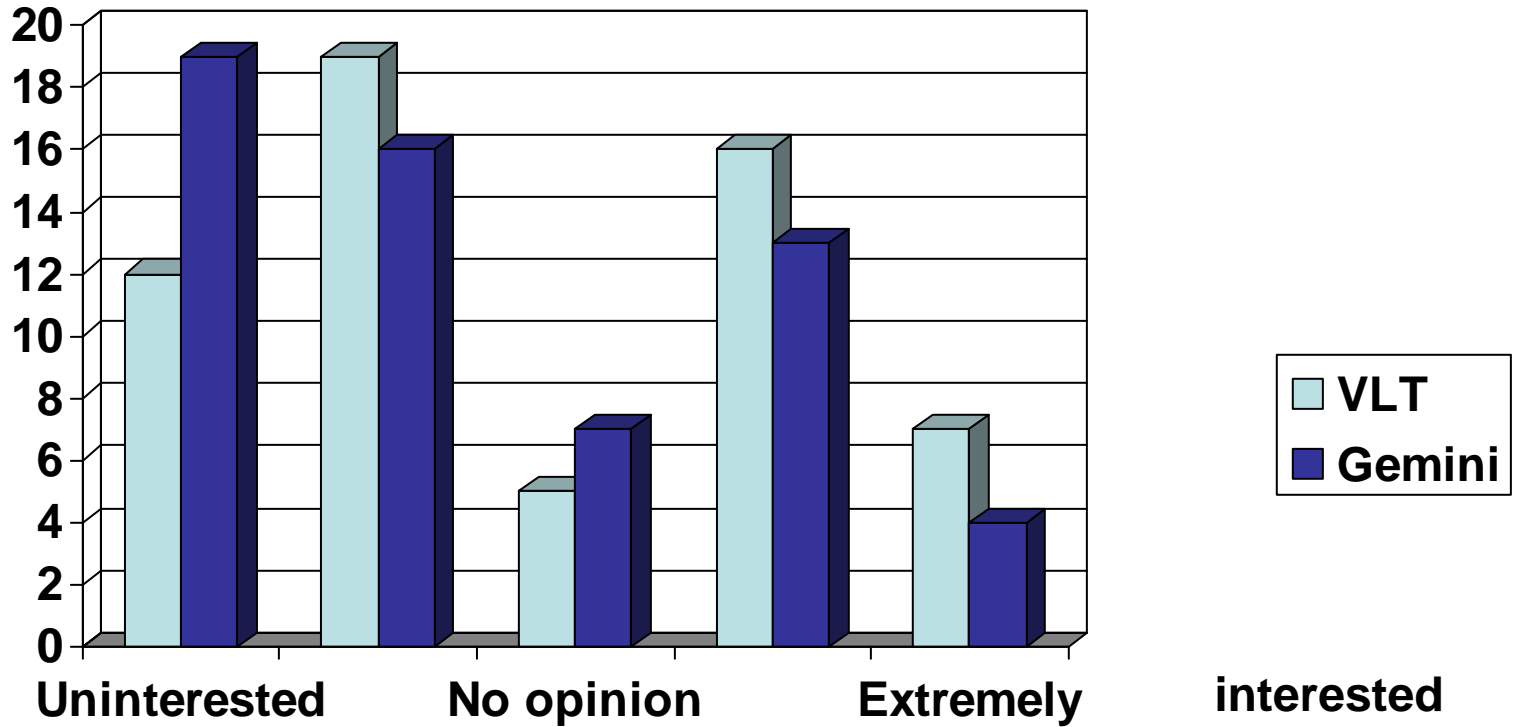
ALMA



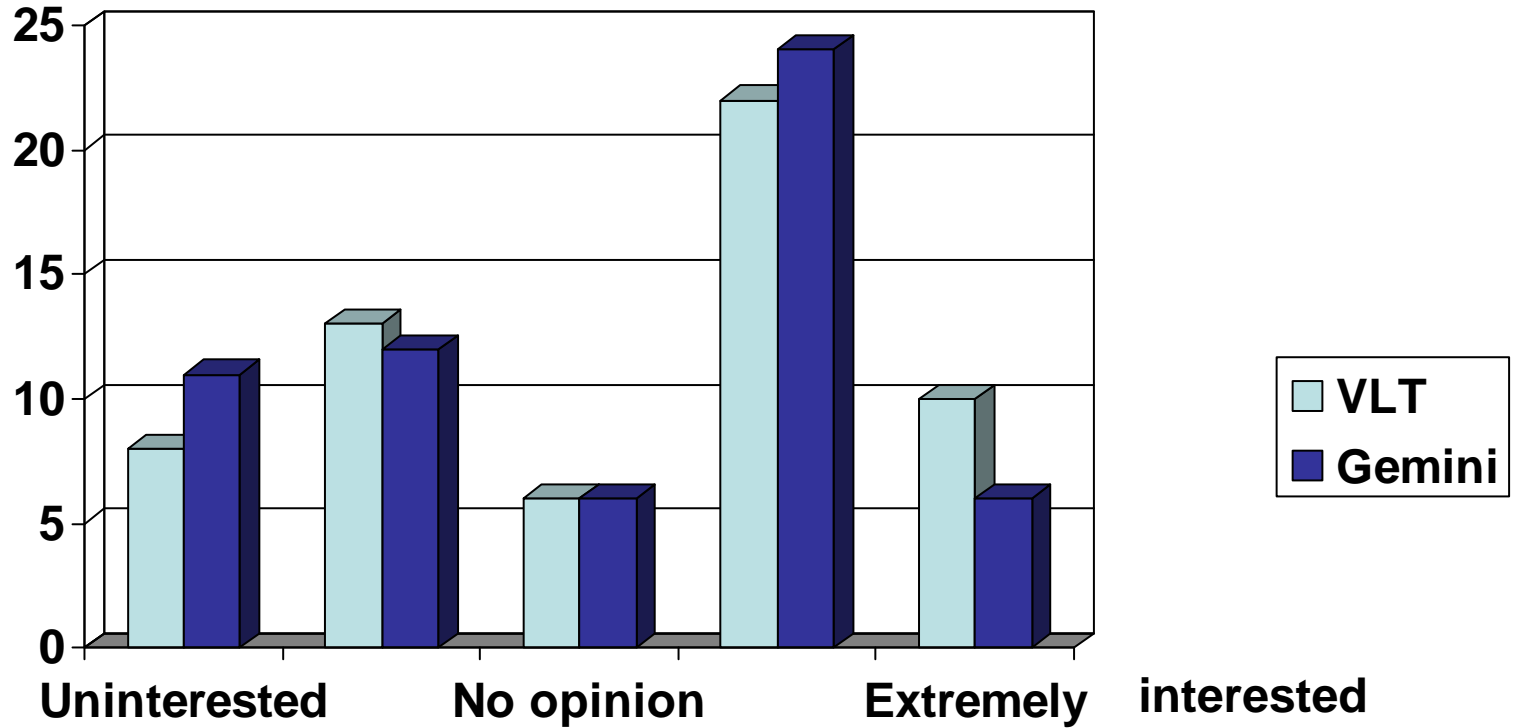
ALMA highlighting those spending > 50% of their time on radioastronomy



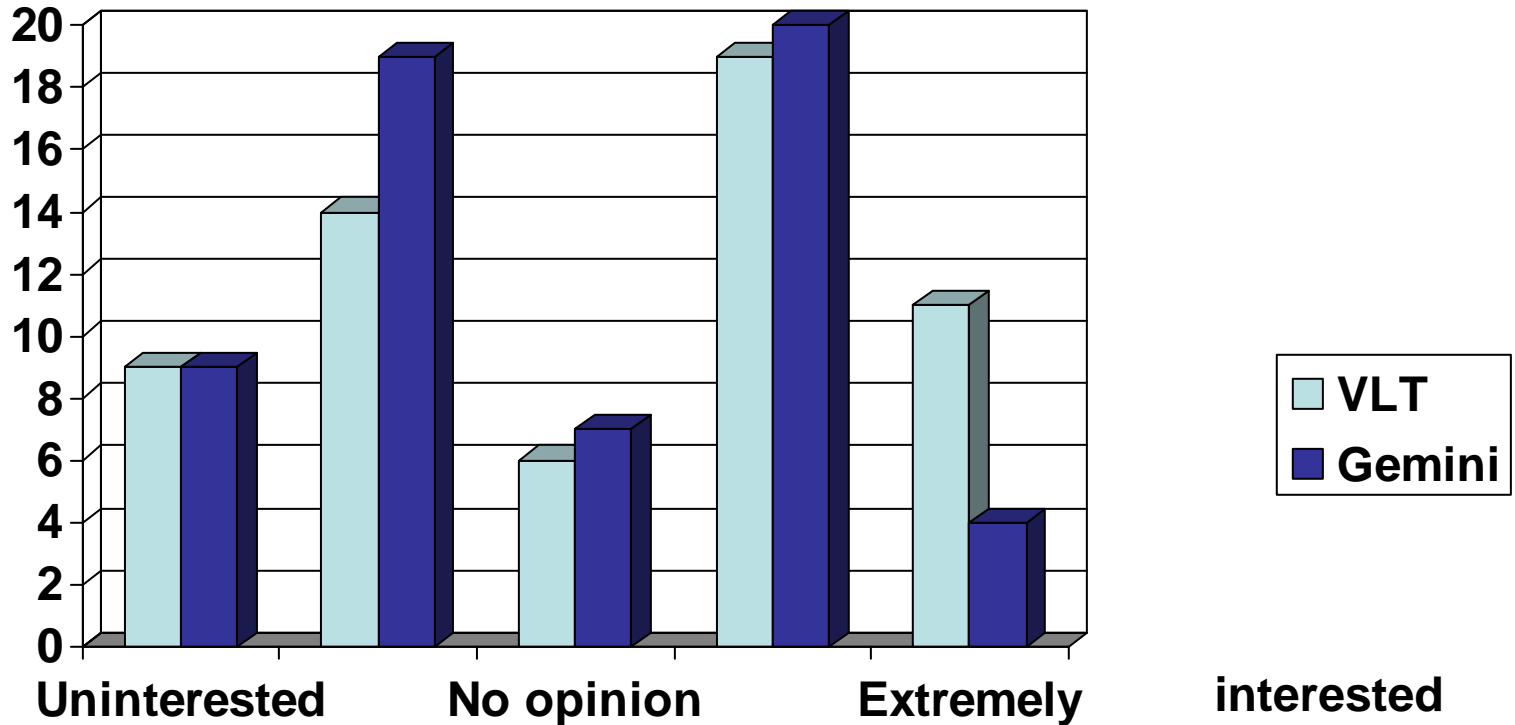
mid IR



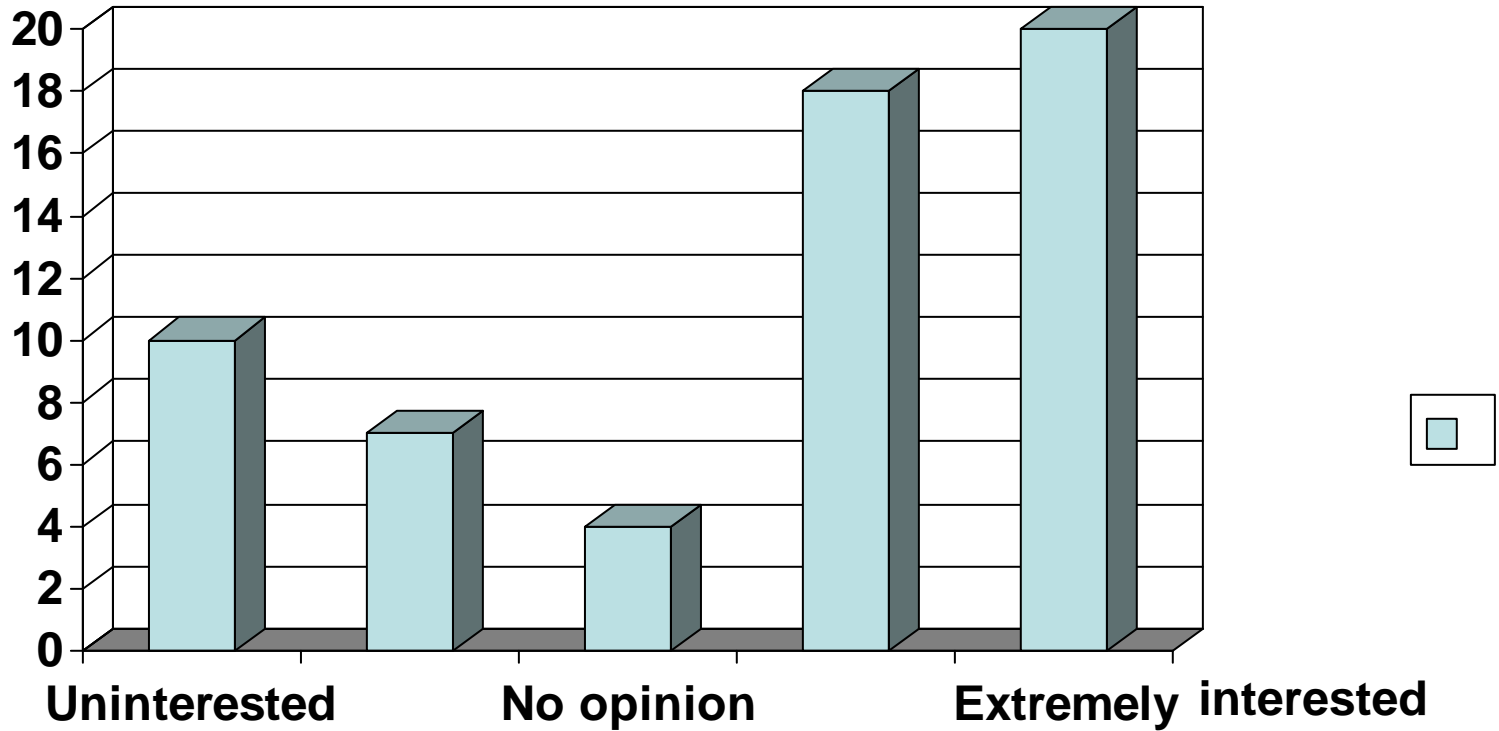
IR AO imaging



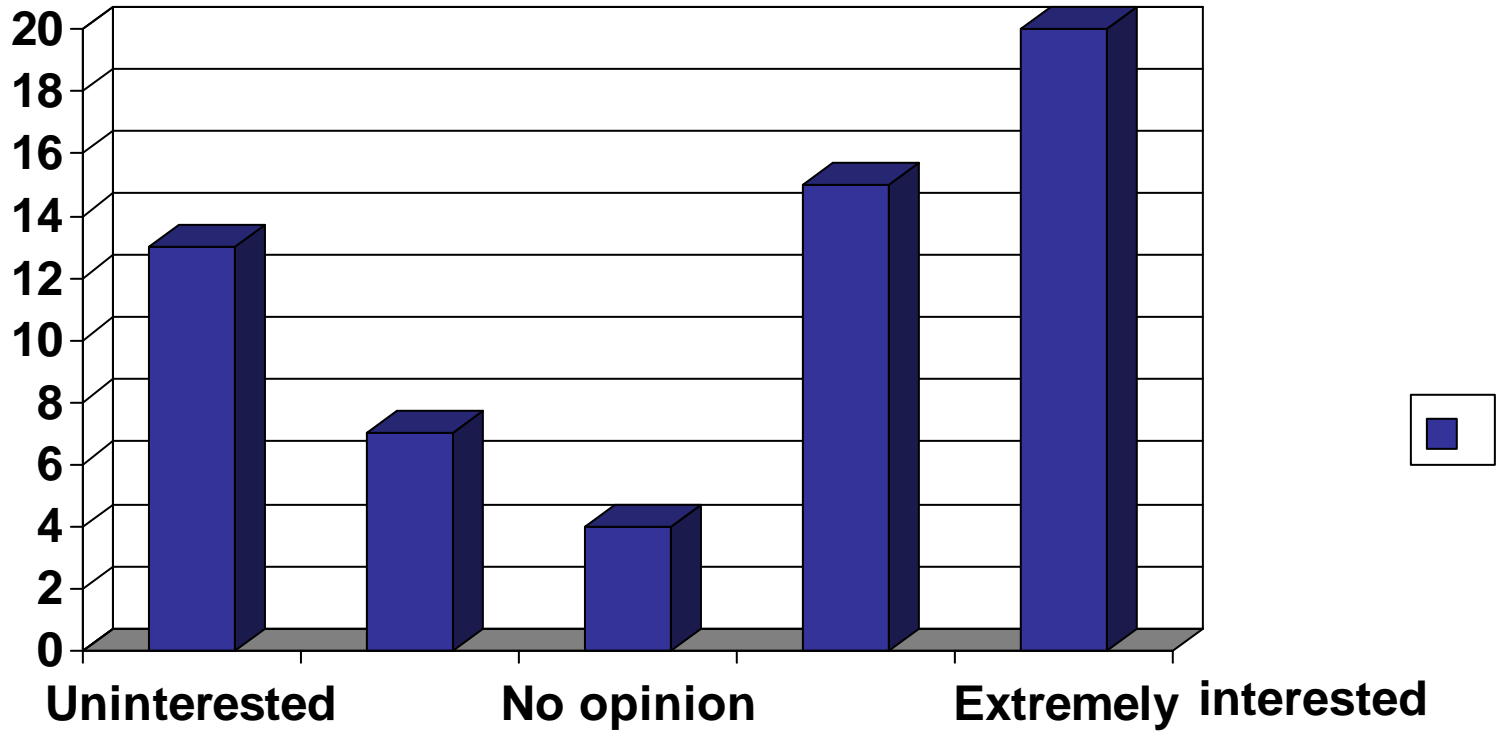
IR AO spectroscopy



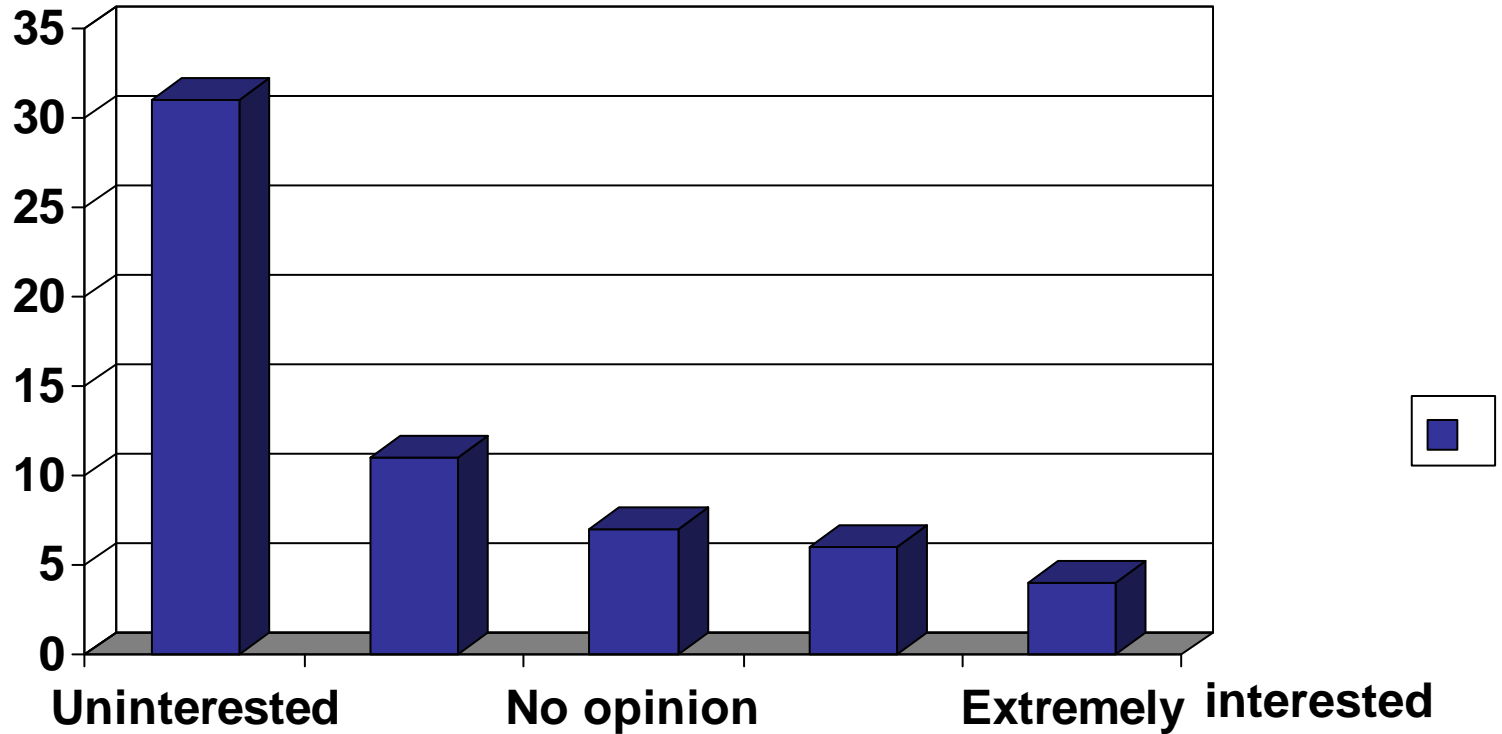
VISTA



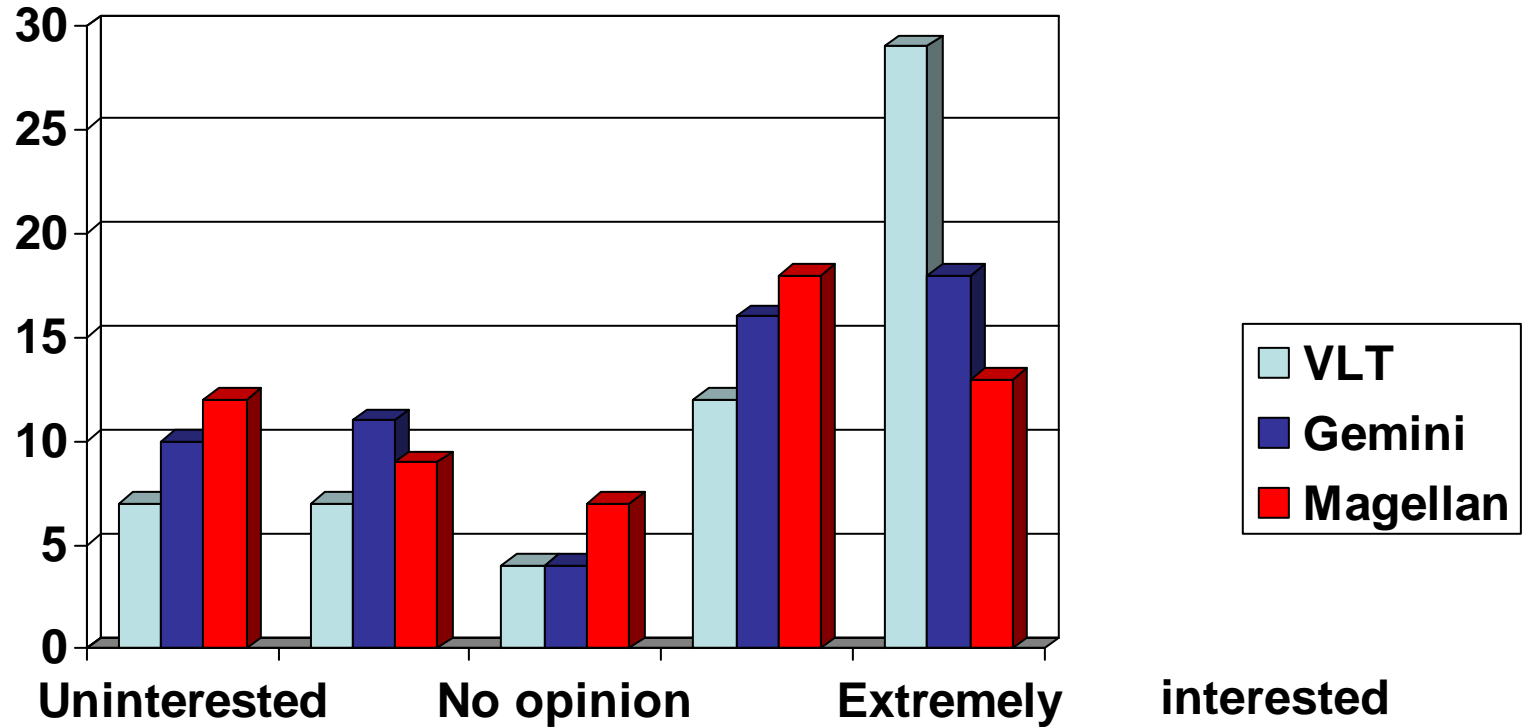
Gemini/Subaru + WFMOS



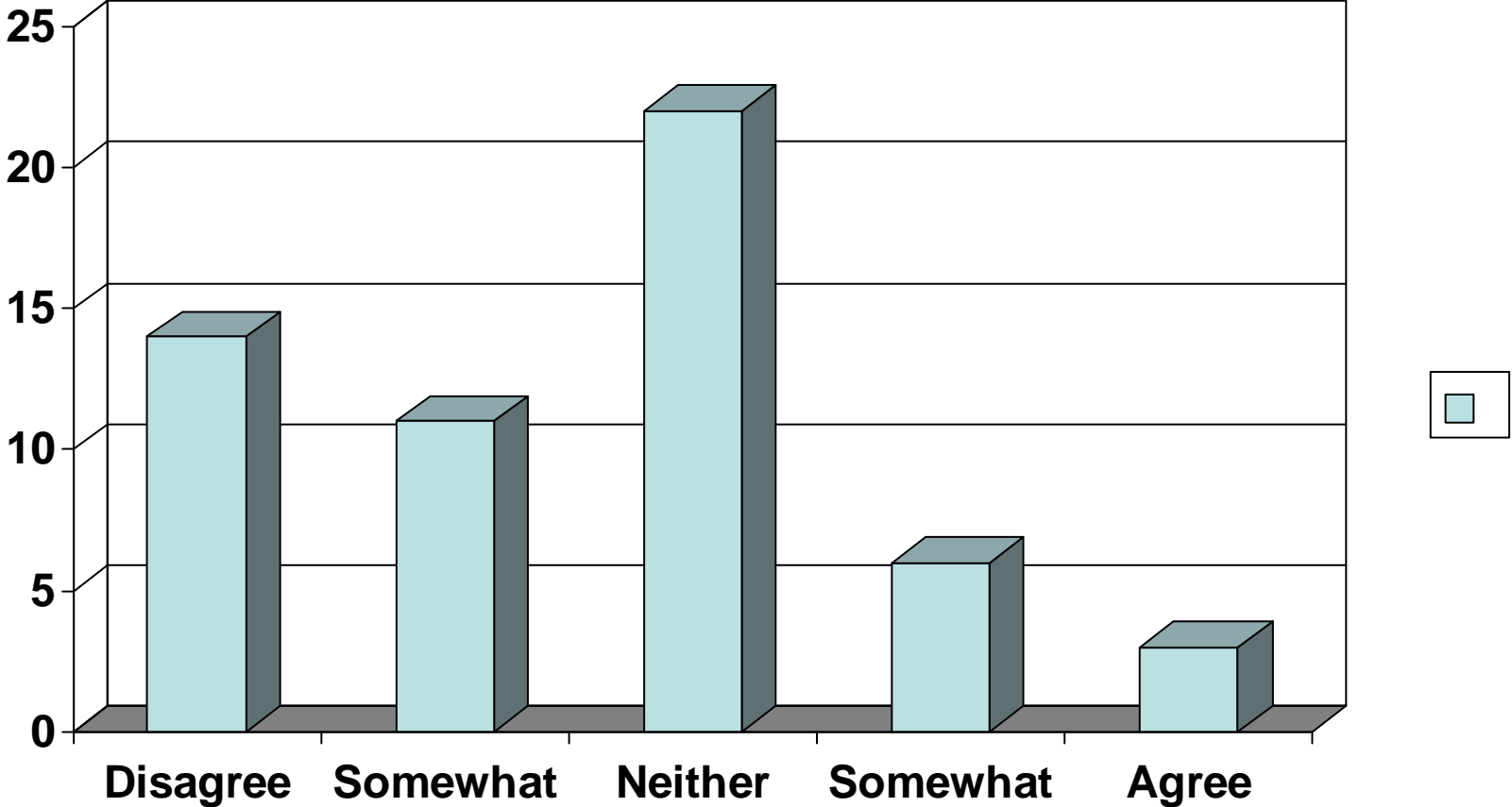
Gemini Planet Imager



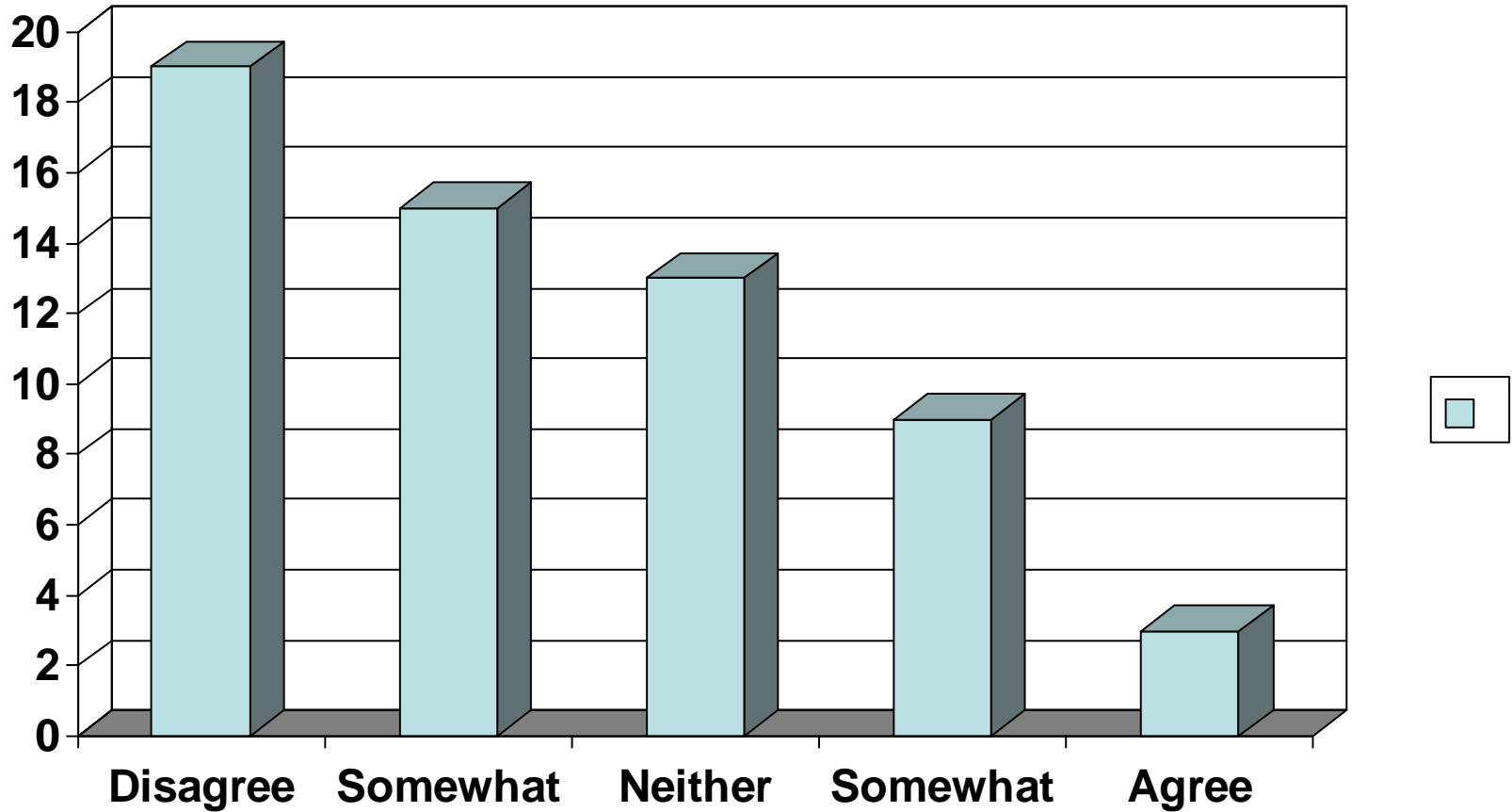
Low resolution optical spectroscopy



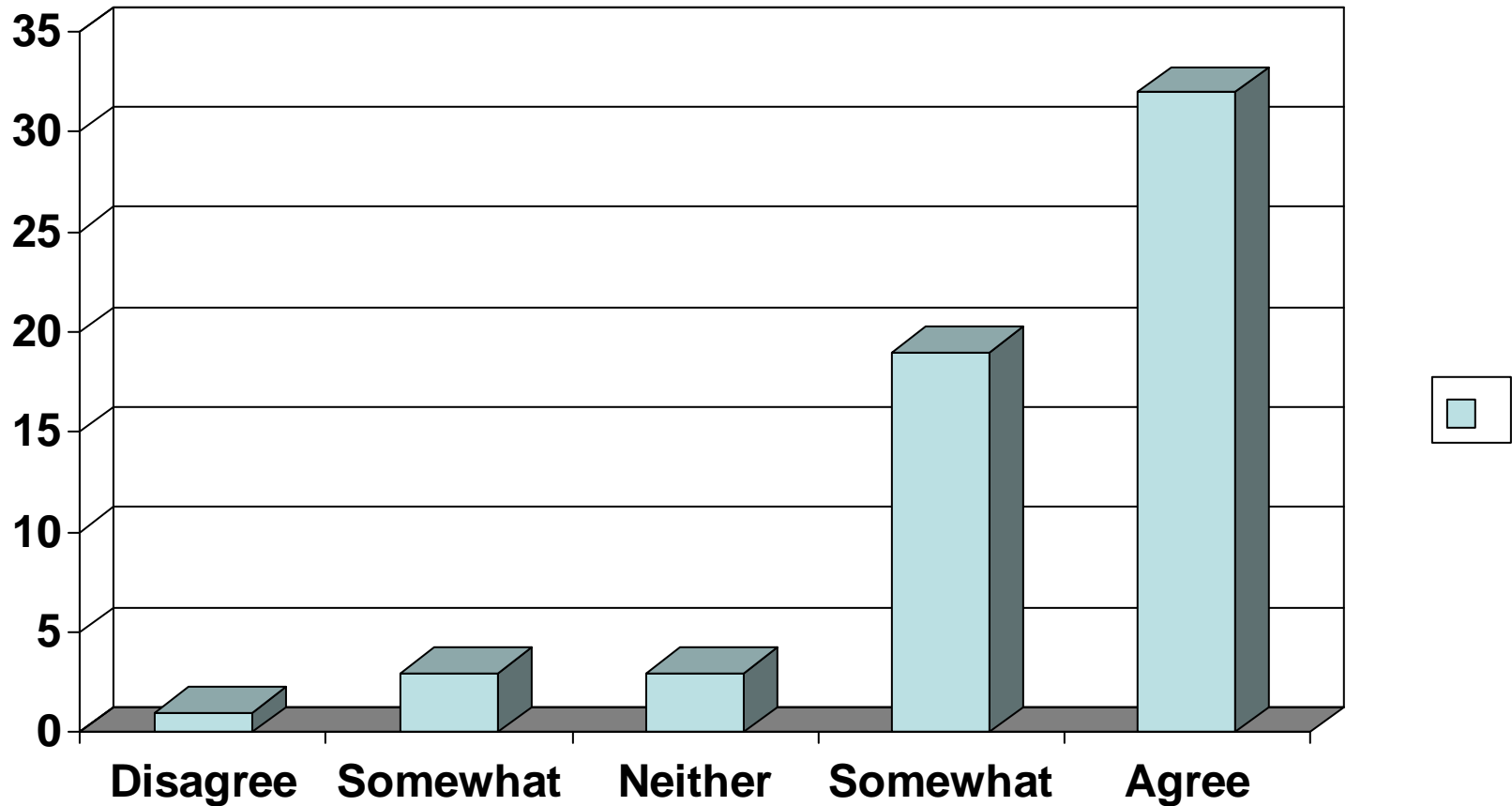
Q40: GMT better for my work than E-ELT



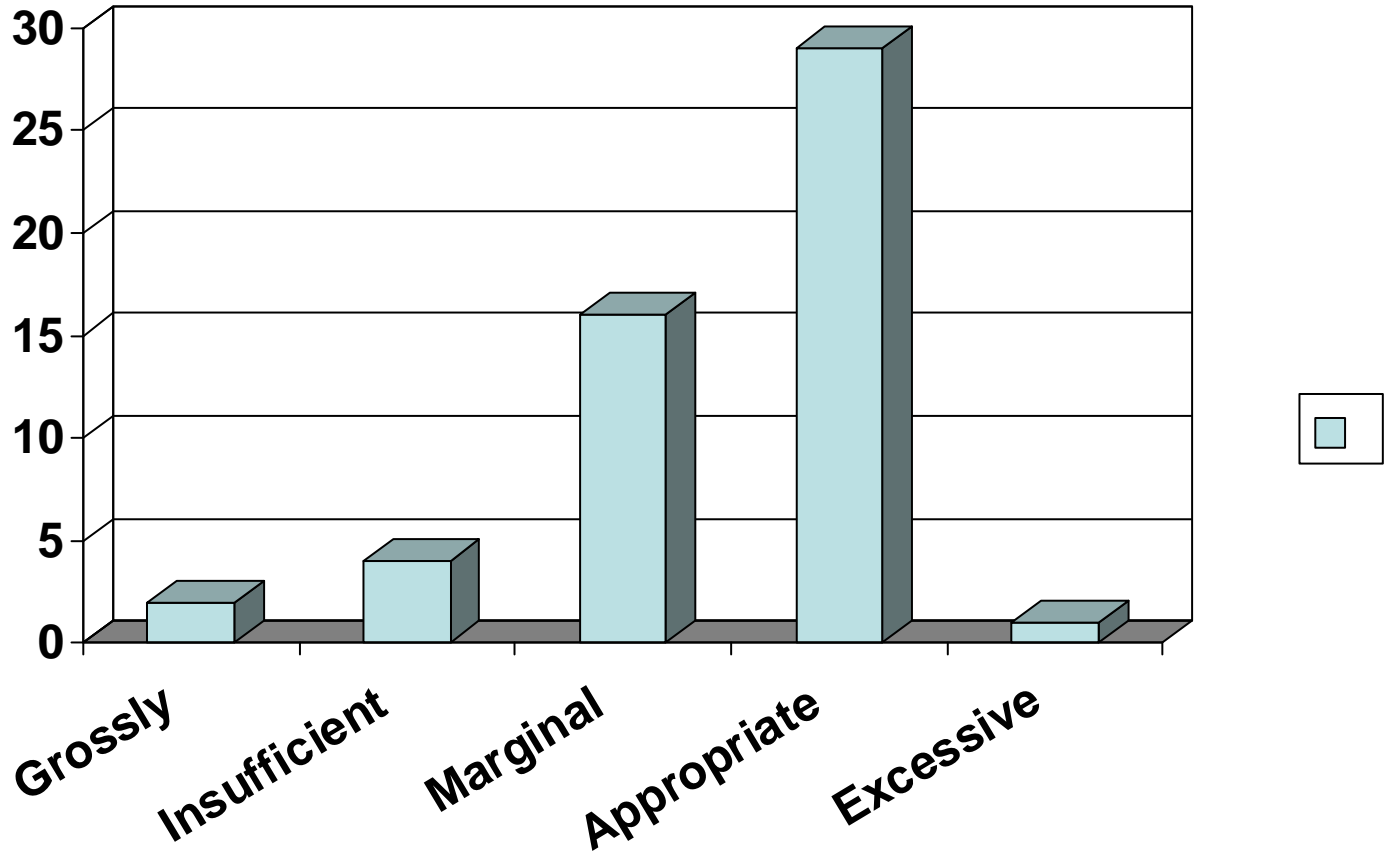
Q41: GMT less risky than E-ELT



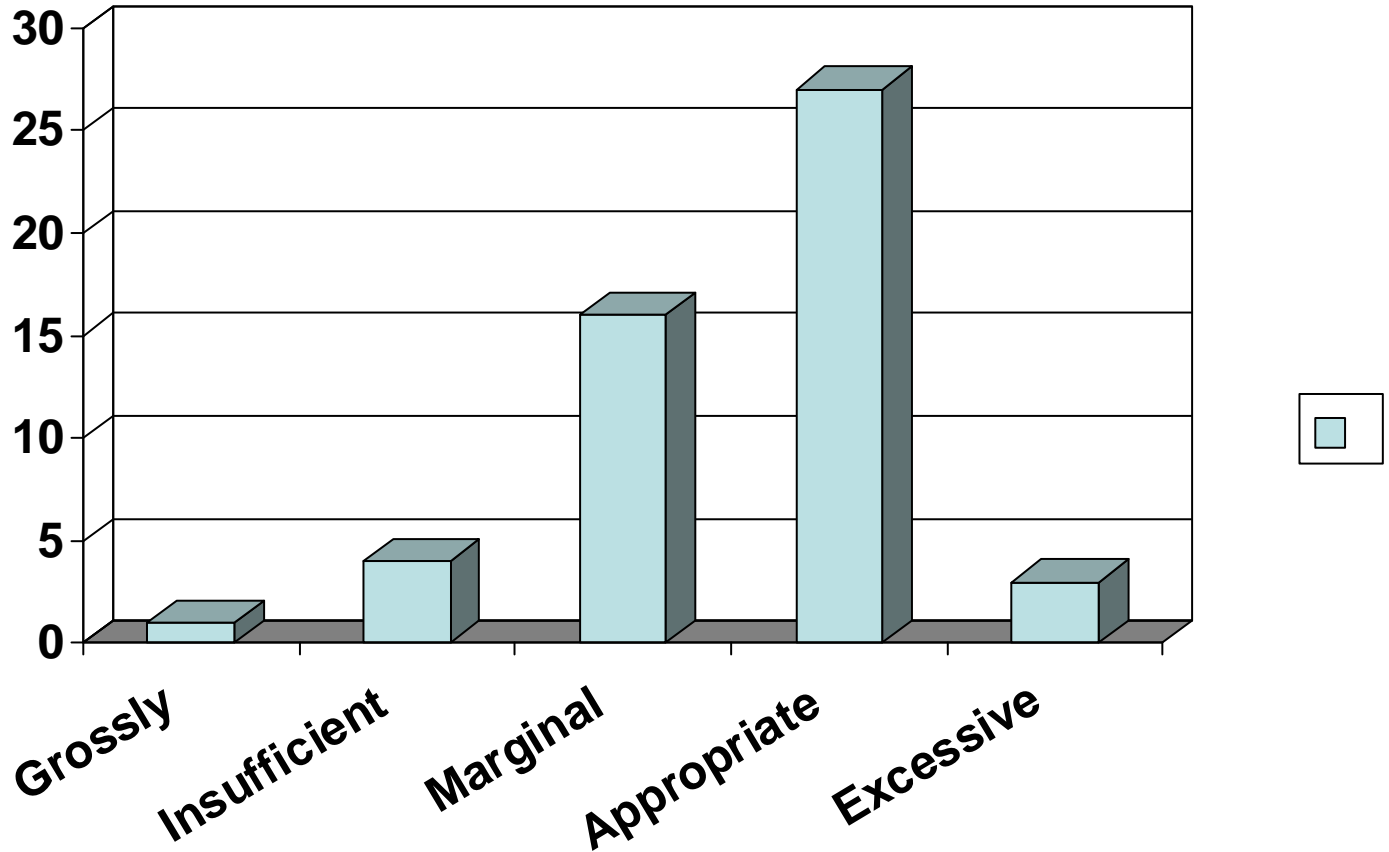
Q42: ELT critical to Australian astronomy future



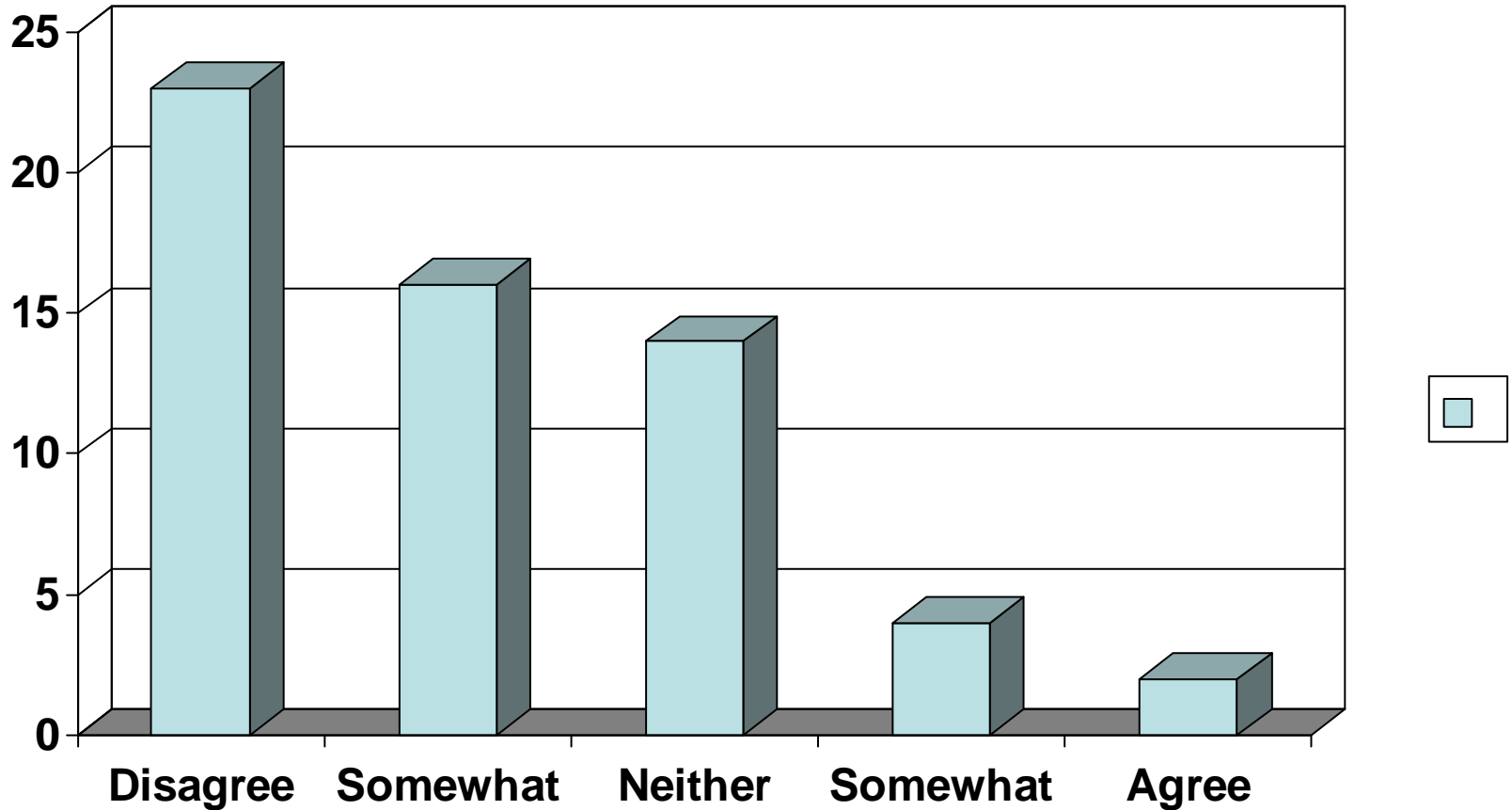
Q43: 21 nights on an E-ELT is.....



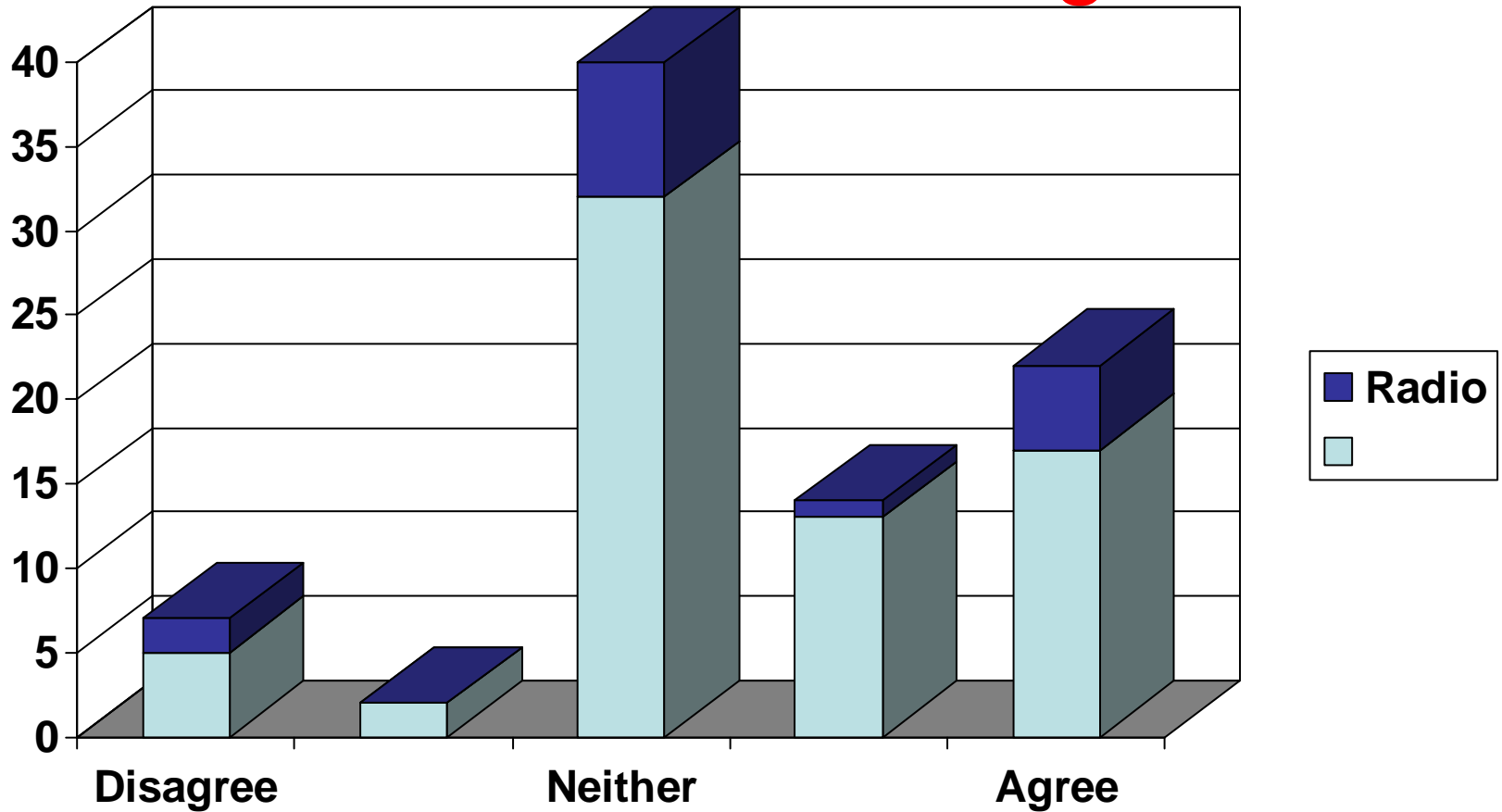
Q44: 36 nights on an GMT is.....



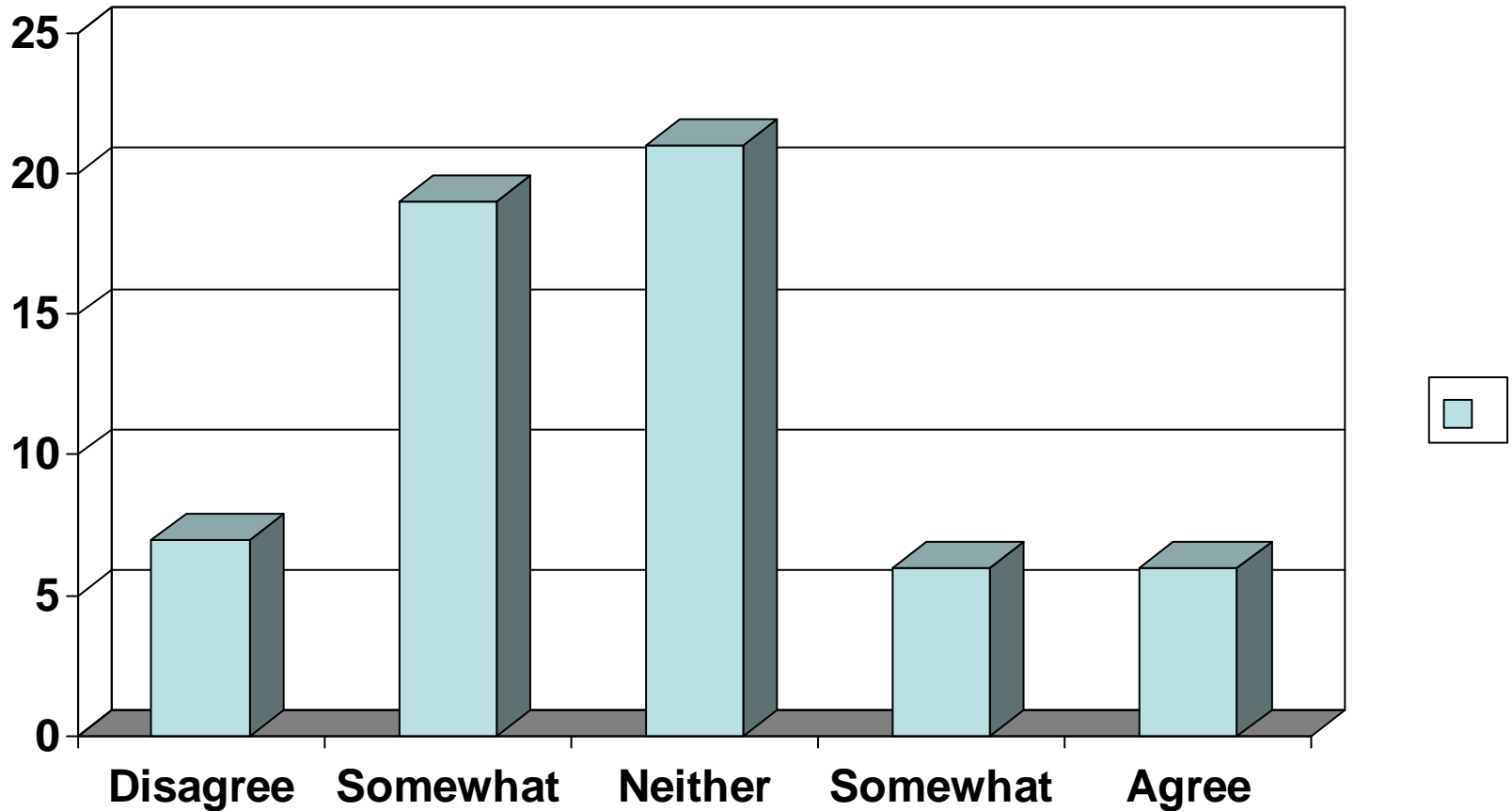
Q46: Gemini/Magellan/GMT better instrumentation than ESO



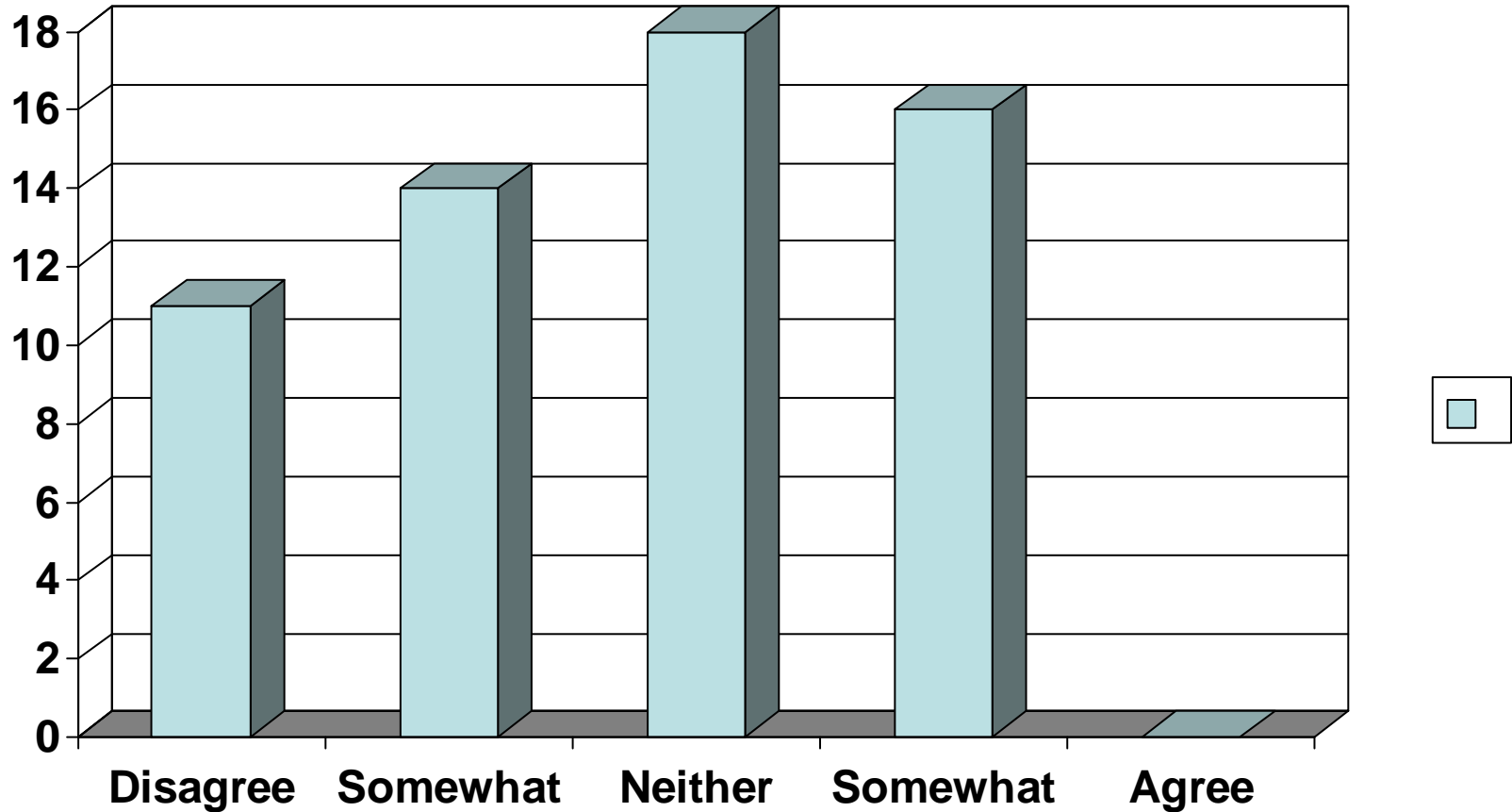
Q47: I believe I'll get more of the time I need to do my science with ESO than with Gemini/GMT/Magellan



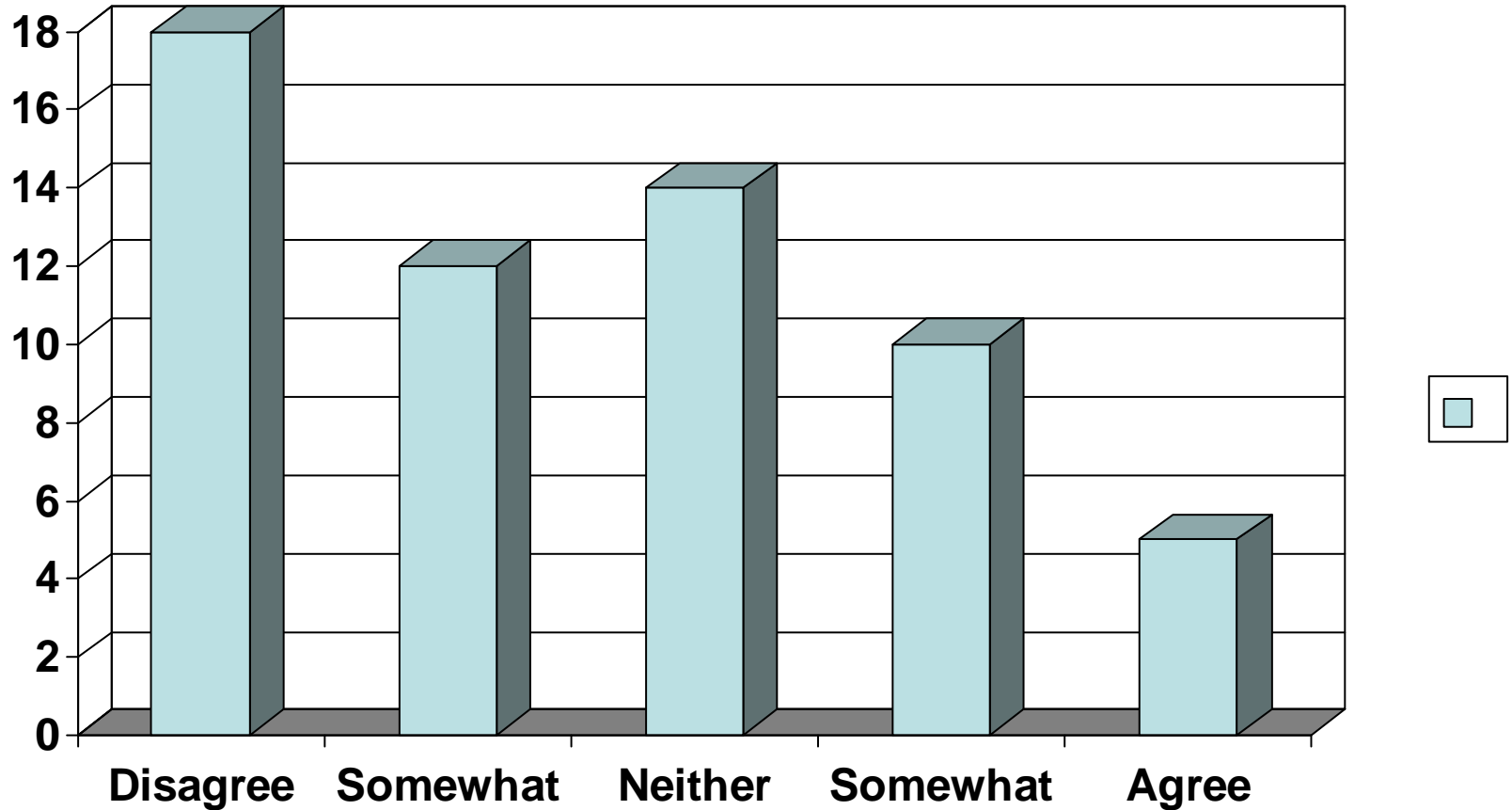
Q48: I believe there should be an ATAC, not an ITAC



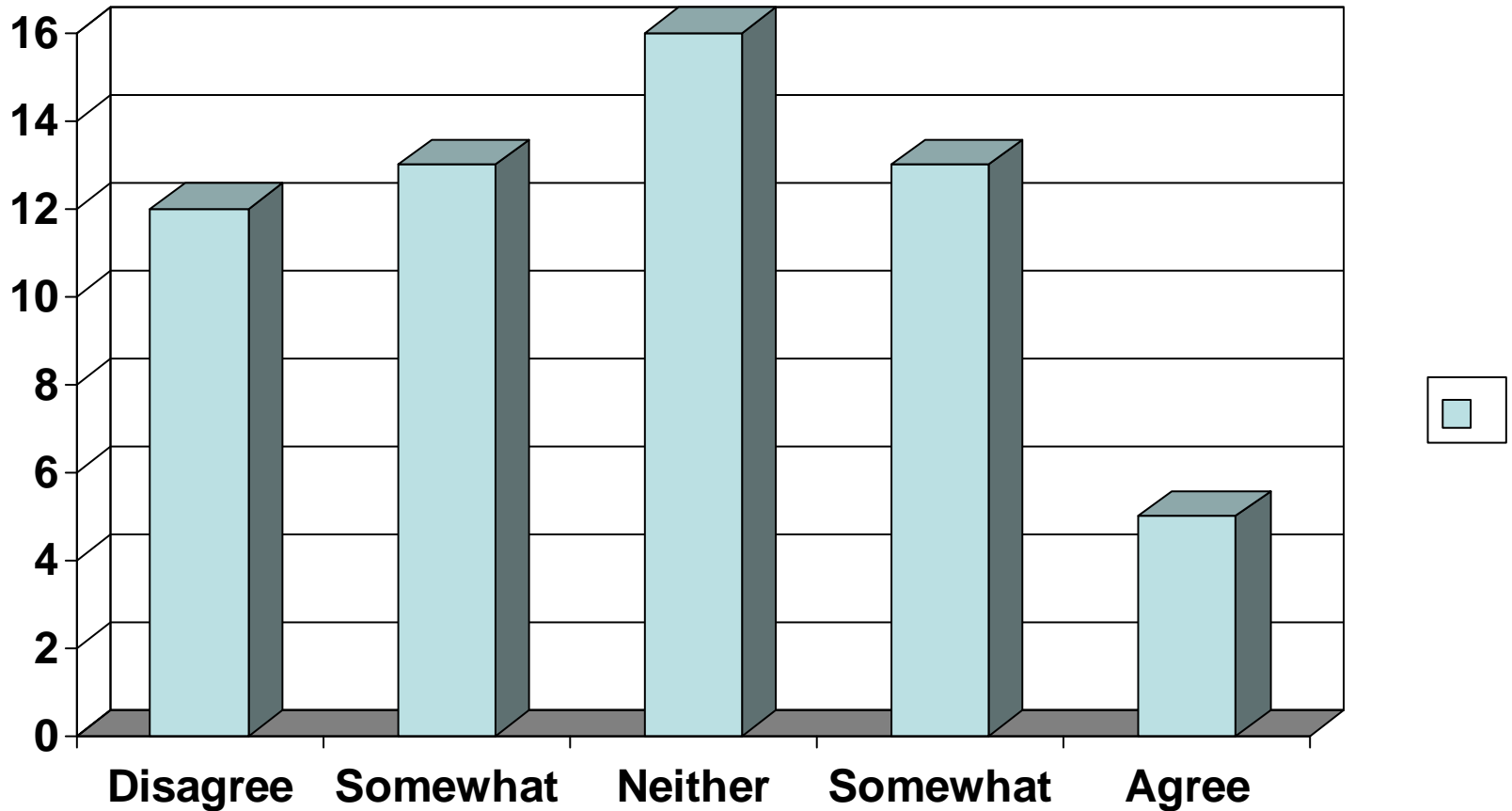
Q49: I am positive about ESO because it will help bring SKA to Australia



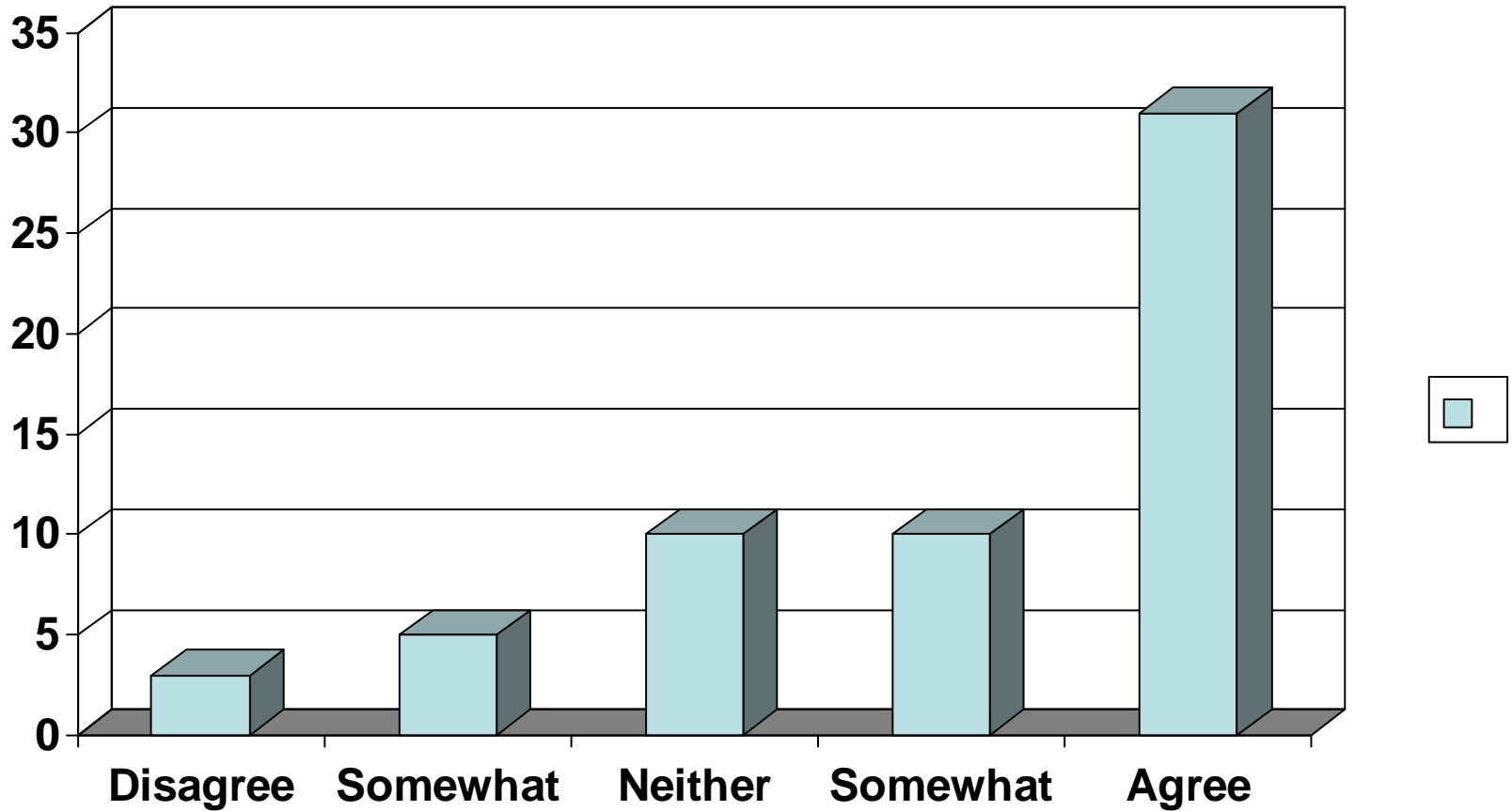
Q50: Joining ESO will limit our ability to determine our own priorities



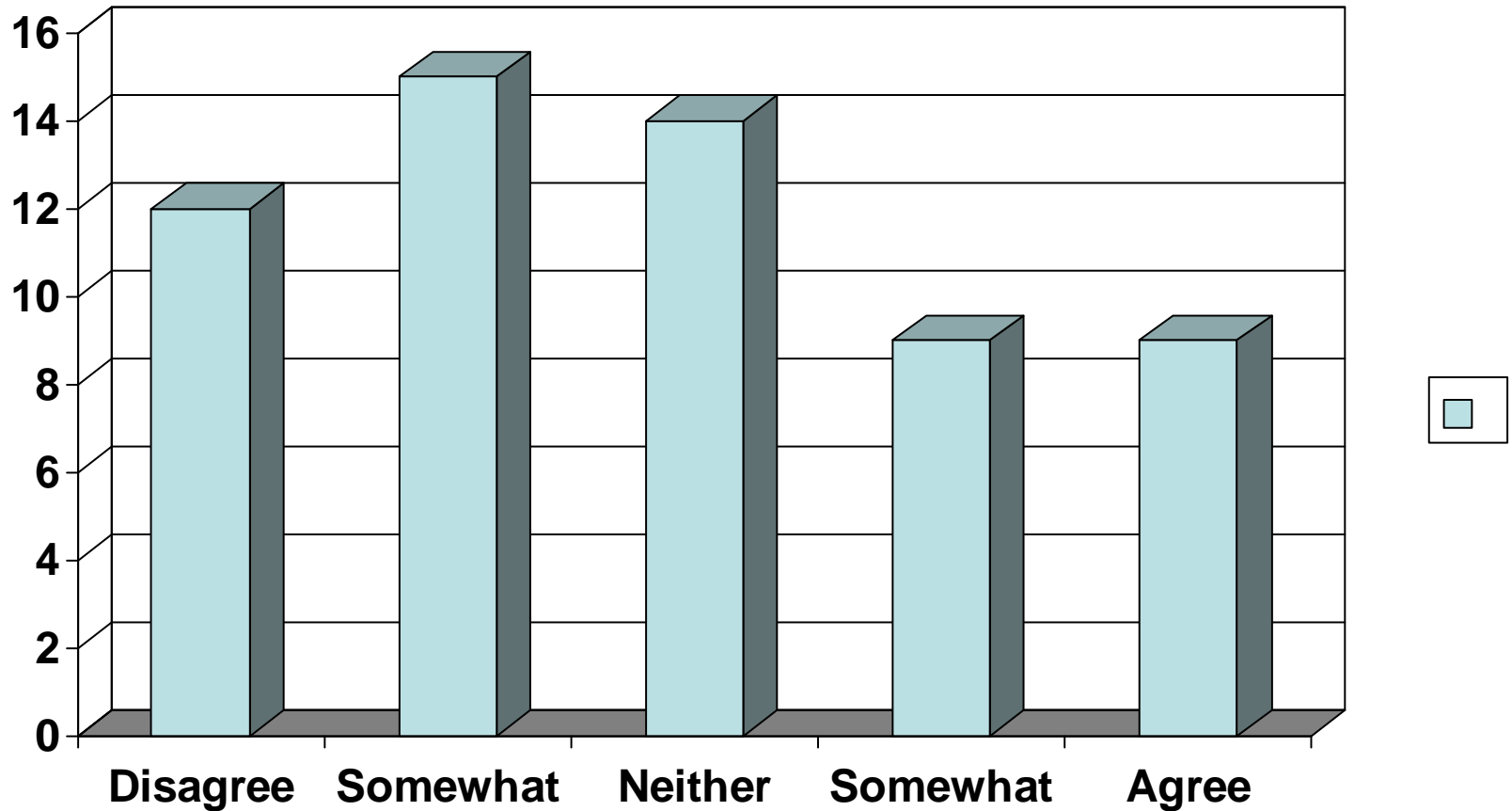
Q51: Gemini/GMT/Magellan will allow us to define/build our instrumentation



Q52: Pursuing ESO strategy better than Gemini / Magellan/ GMT strategy



Q53: Pursuing a dual strategy is a bad idea



Perceived critical differences between GMT and E-ELT

- E-ELT will definitely be built
- Australian share of E-ELT < 21 nights/yr
 - because ESO will need to expand to afford it
- ESO will deliver on widefield high-res spectroscopy
- GMT superior widefield instruments
 - GMACS, NIRMOS, MANIFEST
- GMT not reaching diffraction limit = poor investment
- E-ELT has over 2.5 x aperture of GMT
- LBT not a good prototype for GMT
- ESO offers broadest international collaboration

Perceived pros & cons of joining ESO vs GMT/Gemini/Magellan

- VLT covers λ / res. plane better than Gemini
- ESO pays travel to Chile
- ESO has better end-to-end data products
 - but ESO archive “extremely clunky”
- ESO serves radioastronomers too
- WFMOS will be a unique & well-suited facility
- Finding labour costs for instruments difficult
- Security of funding, once govt has signed up
- Better still: fund 150 astronomers for 10 years