



PROGRESS REPORT ON ARC FUNDED RESEARCH - 2010

(Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF))

Purpose

The ARC requests a progress report from each LIEF Project to assess progress and assist the researcher in cases where this progress has not been satisfactory or where difficulties have been encountered.

Instructions

Progress reports for LIEF Projects are required to be submitted to the ARC by 28 February 2011.

Researchers must note:

- A Progress Report for each ARC funded research project must be completed by the **Project Leader** named on the project.
- Please expand tables as appropriate.
- While there is no limit to the amount of text that can be provided, the ARC is generally seeking **1 to 2 paragraphs of information** where a textual response is required.
- Once complete, the Project Leader should submit the **electronic copy** of the progress report to the Research Office of the Administering Organisation. Paper copies are not required.
- The completed progress report should be saved as a rich text format (RTF) or a PDF document. The file name for the progress report should conform to the following naming convention:
[ProjectID][CI1Surname]_[year].rtf or pdf
(For example LE0756789Brown_2010.rtf)
- The saved RTF or PDF file should be attached to an **email** and sent to the Research Office of the Administering Organisation.

Research Administrators must note:

- Progress Reports should be submitted to the ARC in **electronic (RTF or PDF) format only**:
- The electronic copy (RTF or PDF) must be emailed to the ARC at progress.reports@arc.gov.au.
- Please ensure the file name for the electronic version conforms to the naming convention detailed above (files inappropriately named will be returned to the Research Office for action).

PROGRESS REPORT ON ARC FUNDED RESEARCH FOR LINKAGE INFRASTRUCTURE, EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES PROJECTS ACTIVE IN THE YEAR 2010

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Project ID

LE0668351

1.2 Administering Organisation

Astronomy Australia Limited

1.3 Project start date and total amount of ARC funding received for this reporting period

01/01/2006

\$900,000

1.4 Project title

Australian Membership of the International Gemini Partnership

1.5 Project Leader

Name	Prof Warrick Couch
Email address	warrick.couch@astronomyaustralia.org.au

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 100 word Project summary [as indicated in the original proposal]

The international Gemini Partnership is an intergovernmental consortium that operates two 8-metre optical/infrared telescopes in Chile and Hawaii. Australia joined the IGP in 1998, with 4.76% of the partnership. The Gemini telescopes have been carefully engineered to exploit the superb atmospheric conditions at both sites, allowing users to address key astronomical problems in new ways. Through membership of Gemini, Australian astronomers have access to the world-class facilities necessary to maintain their high international profile, and to enhance the national capacity to construct advanced scientific instrumentation. Australian institutions are currently building two new instruments and conducting a study for a third.

3. PROJECT OVER DURATION OF FUNDING

The information you provide in this section is confidential and will not be used for media or promotion of research.

3.1 Have there been changes to or problems with the project?

No

(yes/no)

This could include changes to the infrastructure project resulting from ARC funding at a lower level than requested. Note that some changes require ARC approval to be requested as a Variation to the Funding Contract/Agreement. Such a Variation must be forwarded to the ARC through the Administering Organisation's Research Office. Variations to Contract/Agreement forms are available on the ARC website at www.arc.gov.au

If yes, give details

3.2 What are your project achievements to date?

Please provide 1 to 2 paragraphs only

The demand for the Gemini telescopes remains healthy, with an oversubscription factor (total time requested divided by Australia's available share) of 2.35. In 2010, Australian astronomers submitted 58 requests for Gemini time, 35 of which were allocated queue or classical time. In total, 22 of these successful proposals received at least 80% of their requested data (or had a Target-of-Opportunity component that was not triggered), and are considered to be completed. The total number of hours requested by Australian astronomers was 515 hours, of which 134 hours were actually observed by Gemini. A total of 45 Australian researchers from 11 institutions received data from Gemini: 30 faculty members, 8 postdocs and 7 PhD students. Just over 80% of Australian Gemini proposals also involved international collaborators.

3.3 What are your planned activities for the coming year?

Please provide 1 to 2 paragraphs only

(Please note that in your next report, you may be asked to report progress against these plans and objectives.)

Continue to give Australian astronomers access to front-ranked 8m telescope facilities through membership in Gemini, and in doing so, to continue to produce high impact science/publications and train our young postgraduate researchers.

4. ATTACHMENTS

Is additional material attached?

(yes/no)

5. CERTIFICATIONS

5.1 Certification by the Project Leader

I certify that:

All details in this report are true and complete and that this is an accurate Progress Report for the period covered.

Project Leader

Name: Warrick Couch	Date: 15 March 2011
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5.2 Certification by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Deputy-Vice Chancellor (Research) (or equivalent or nominee) - comments

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I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that progress on this Project has been satisfactory and/or problems have been identified in this Progress Report, and I recommend continued funding.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) or equivalent or nominee

Name: Mark McAuley, Chief Operating Officer, AAL	Date: 21 March 2011
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Please note: The electronic submission of this Progress Report to the ARC by the Research Office of the Administering Organisation is verification that the Administering Organisation has approved the Progress Report content.

An electronic signature is not required.

*Thank you for submitting your Progress Report.
The ARC may contact you if clarification or further information is required to determine whether progress has been satisfactory over the period covered in the Report.*

Information on this form is collected in order to determine whether the research project funded by the ARC has reached satisfactory outcomes for the year and for post award reporting.

Researchers should note that if the ARC is not satisfied with the progress of the Project, further payment of funds will not be made until satisfactory progress has been made on the Project. If satisfactory progress is still not achieved, the Funding will be terminated and all outstanding monies recovered by the ARC. Unsatisfactory progress on the Project will be noted against any further proposals under any ARC scheme submitted by, or on behalf of, the Chief Investigator or Fellow and will be taken into account in the assessment of those proposals.