

Cassegrain ADC
Monthly Report, March 20, 2006

I. Narrative

A. Summary

Research on coatings continues on several fronts.

Since the beginning of the year we have been fighting issues with our coating tank. The coatings we were getting were not consistent, run to run, and we decided to service the e-gun, and install a new process controller, and re-build the roughing pump. Following the e-gun servicing, we have not been able to get the gun to operate properly. We are in contact with several experts and are slowly resolving the problems.

We have abandoned the dip coating process in favor of spin coating, and are getting very favorable results. We currently are developing a test plan on this process. One of the challenges with the spin coating process is that we are not able to run test samples that can be put into the lab spectrophotometer, and have had to order a portable one. This new instrument is expected in mid-April.

We have ordered a clean room to enclose the coating process. The clean room will be delivered in mid April.

B. Technical Status

1. Overall Assessment of Scientific and Technical Status
The coating of the prisms is being re-done. All other work is complete to the point of fabricating the shipping containers. Testing continues at a low level.
2. Accomplishments of the Past Month
As above
3. Problems
Coatings

C. Schedule and Budget Status

1. Overall Assessment of Progress and Expenditures
Coating of the optics is on the critical path. Delivery is now thought to be in **October 06 with first light in November.**

2. Problems
Coatings

D. Proposed Actions Regarding Problem Areas

1. Scientific or Technical -none
2. Schedule - none
3. Budget -none

E. Anticipated Accomplishments in the Next Month

Continued development of coating processes. Installation of the new clean room

F. Other Issues and Information Deemed Essential to Include: None

II. Schedule

Current Schedule -attached

III. Confirmation of Amendment of Project Schedule and Milestones –

IV. Confirmation or Amendment of Project Budget

We asked for and received the contingency funding for this project.

V. Project Financial Summary –attached.

At the end of Feb 06, we had expended \$392,256 of an approved total of \$499,830 .