

**STATEMENT OF INTEREST IN FUTURE MAJOR PROJECT**Date submitted:  
2008-11-07

Title of project : Virtual Observatory Technology Centre UK (VOTC:UK)	
Executive summary We propose to provide a support team for UK astronomy facilities, missions, and data centres, to work together to provide a common framework for data access, and targeted developments for each facility. The aims are to maximise the exploitation of facilities; to ensure compatibility with the global data access framework; and to minimise the total cost of data access arrangements. The programme will be achieved by combining the work of scientists and engineers already inside the facility teams with a small core team of technical workers funded explicitly by VOTC:UK. Work will be planned in co-ordination with ESO and ESA partners as part of Europe-wide VOTC, led by UK.	
Proposers 1 A.Lawrence, PI 2 Thirty-eight coIs	Institute Edinburgh various, see case
Estimated cost to STFC (including manpower) £1.8M	
Expected start date and duration of capital construction phase Start : July 1st 2009 Duration : 3 years	
If the project involves collaboration with researchers not supported by STFC, what is their timescale for approval? Involves extensive collaboration with international partners, but the UK component is not dependent on formal approvals elsewhere.	
Is the project dependent on the availability of other facilities? The aim is to work in collaboration with already funded STFC facilities to provide shared infrastructure. The facilities as well as the core VOTC:UK team commit effort to this joint programme of work.	
Estimate of major risks associated with the project <b>Risk-1</b> : Key stakeholders fail to engage properly, so that development and services are insufficiently co-ordinated, leading to duplicated work and extra total cost. <b>Risk-2</b> : Euro-VO initiative fails. <b>Risk-3</b> : UK project fails to influence international standards, with which STFC facilities will be obliged to comply, again leading to extra cost. (These risks are maximised if the project is not undertaken at all.)	