

The ING Board's view of WEAVE

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- What does the Board do? Who are in it?
- Its views on ING & WEAVE
- Involvement in WEAVE so far and in the future
- Future planning for ING

Topics

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What is ING?

- Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes
- Two telescopes: 4.2m WHT and 2.5m INT
- Three partners: UK, Netherlands, Spain
- Around 40 staff, annual budget around 3.5M€
Director: Marc Balcells

Role of the Board

- The Board of the Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes **oversees the management of the observatory**. It:
 - agrees the programme for operation, maintenance and development of the facilities
 - agrees on the budgets and provides them
 - determines the arrangements for the allocation of telescope time
 - makes arrangements to ensure that the views of the user community are taken fully into account.

- Chair: Johan Knapen (IAC, ES)
- Secretary: Michelle Cooper (STFC, UK)
- Funding Agency Delegates:
 - Chris Woolford (STFC, UK)
 - Ronald Stark (NWO, NL)
 - Alfonso López-Aguerri (IAC, ES)
- Scientific Community Representatives:
 - Stuart Littlefair (Sheffield, UK)
 - Boris Gaensicke (Warwick, UK)
 - Christoph Keller (Leiden, NL)
 - Reynier Peletier (Groningen, NL)

Board Membership

Strategic view of ING

- Maintain general-purpose 4m-class telescope in the Northern hemisphere for use by partner communities
- Ensure that telescope and instrumentation can deliver competitive science, even in an era of much larger telescopes
- Wide-field MOS selected as prime instrument option (cf. Astronet Roadmap)
- Try to keep INT open with competitive instrumentation

Status now (pre-WEAVE)

- Multiple instruments available
 - Facility
 - Visiting
- Observing time allocated through three national TACs
- Ownership of telescopes has passed from STFC to IAC
- New operating agreement signed for next ten years

Situation post-2019

- WEAVE main instrument, up to 70% of available time dedicated to WEAVE surveys
- Remaining instruments: ISIS, LIRIS, ACAM, plus visiting instruments
- Remaining 30% of time to be allocated by national TACs
 - TAC allocations can use WEAVE (either extension of surveys or stand-alone programmes, incl. long-term)
- Top-sliced: technical time and 5% International Time

Board involvement so far

- Authorise involvement of ING staff in WEAVE development (equiv. to ~15-20% of overall budget)
- Authorise structural work on telescope
- Authorise downtime needed to prepare for WEAVE
- Authorise and fund TCS upgrade
- Guarantee operations of WHT until 2026
- Allocate up to 70% of available observing time for 5 years
 - Overlap and formal involvement in WEAVE Project Board
- Approve Publication and Data Policies

Future Involvement

- Continued external review of WEAVE science, operations and productivity
- Regular reporting from WEAVE Consortium
- Identify, plan, and fund use of WHT beyond the initial 5 years of WEAVE

Future of the WHT

- Up to 2019: continued exploitation with existing instruments, but with chunks of downtime for new telescope control system and WEAVE engineering & commissioning
- 2019-2024: 5 years of WEAVE surveys (up to 70% of available time), plus TAC time (30%) which may also include using WEAVE
- Past-2024: not defined, but likely continued use of WEAVE instrument (not necessarily current surveys)
- Board is starting to define post-2026 strategy