

A statement in support of the James Webb Space Telescope

From the ~75 delegates of the international workshop "Feeding the Giants: Extremely Large Telescopes in the era of surveys", Ischia, Italy Aug 29 – Sep 2, 2011

Astronomy has demonstrated repeatedly how the largest leaps in our understanding of the cosmos come from the *combination* of observations from more than one facility. A perfect example is the Hubble Space Telescope finding faint objects in the distant Universe and the largest ground-based telescopes revealing their physical nature with spectroscopy. At this conference we have explored such scientific synergies, which will be yet more powerful with the next generation of facilities.

The James Webb Space Telescope is the successor to Hubble in space - there is no other planned facility like it. Such transformational observatories are inspirational not only for current and future generations of scientists, but also for the public and young children, as impressively demonstrated by Hubble.

The combination of the James Webb Space Telescope with the next generation of Extremely Large Telescopes on the ground will revolutionise our understanding of the Universe, including origins of the first galaxies and formation of planetary systems.

For these reasons we are particularly concerned by the risk of cancellation of the James Webb Space Telescope project. The loss of scientific capability would have far-reaching impact on the astronomical community worldwide. We therefore wish to register our support for completion of the James Webb Space Telescope project and realisation of its scientific goals.

Approved 1st September 2011

