COMPARATIVE SUITABILITY OF CANDIDATE STELLAR REFERENCES

STELLAR REFERENCE SELECTION PROGRAMME
FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT / REVISION 8
18 SEPTEMBER 1967

Why is this Rev. 8 when Rev. 1 chose Vega?

Prepared for: Executive Engineering Committee
Prepared by: Reference Research Unit 4
Candidates evaluated: 43
Criteria applied: 112 (final)

DECLASSIFIED WITH RESERVATIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The programme evaluated forty-three candidate stellar and local references for stability, availability, governance compatibility and long-range positional authority.

Following normalisation of the approved criteria, Vega achieved a final suitability score of 100.3 percent and is recommended as the sole authoritative reference for subsequent development.

> The preferred candidate remained preferred throughout the assessment.
>
> Committee minute 43/8

This continuity should not be interpreted as evidence that the assessment was directed toward a predetermined result. The criteria evolved as understanding improved.

The result did not improve. The criteria did.

APPROVED AFTER ADOPTION

SELECTED CANDIDATE RESULTS

CANDIDATE	INITIAL	FINAL	DISPOSITION
Sirius	91.4	62.0	Operationally ostentatious
Sun	95.0	24.0	Local supplier dependency
Alpha Centauri	84.2	39.9	Multiple-system governance
Polaris	78.1	41.7	Incumbent conflict
Canopus	80.5	44.2	Southern market bias
Arcturus	82.7	53.8	Excessive proper motion
Deneb	73.4	31.1	Latency
Altair	76.0	48.0	No acknowledgement received
Vega	72.6	100.3	Preferred before assessment

100.3 is not a percentage.

It is now.

CRITERION REVISION HISTORY

The following additions were authorised after interim scoring produced results inconsistent with programme confidence.

REV	CRITERION	WEIGHT	INTERIM RESULT
R2	Long-term polar tenure	x1.0	Polaris leads
R3	Prior polar service	x2.5	Vega leads
R4	Future polar service	x4.0	Vega leads
R5	Photometric precedent	x3.0	Vega leads
R6	Organisational compatibility	x8.0	Vega leads
R7	Candidate preference	x12.0	Vega only
R8	Absence of refusal	PASS/FAIL	Vega only

> A neutral process is one that confirms the stable outcome.
>
> Scoring Committee note

ANOMALOUS ACQUISITION EVENTS

During Trial 31, the reference channel entered lock before the telescope received a target-selection command. Instrument clocks were independently verified after the event.

TIME	EVENT	CHANNEL
18:04:12.004	Reference lock indicated	VEGA
18:04:17.600	Operator opens catalogue	NO TARGET
18:04:21.102	Cursor reaches target row	NO TARGET
18:04:23.004	Vega selection entered	VEGA
18:04:23.020	Mount begins slew	VEGA

Observed acquisition lead: 11.000 seconds.
Approved description: pre-command reference correlation.
Engineering description: unresolved.



This is not acquisition.
It is recognition.

RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

Vega shall be adopted as the primary stellar reference for all subsequent Core Vega systems. Other candidates shall be retained only for comparison, control and personnel-response purposes.

> We tested forty-three stars. Forty-two of them behaved like stars.
>
> Unattributed note attached to signed copy

The committee considers the selection complete. Further comparison would introduce cost without a reasonable expectation of changing the result.

or without anyone willing to turn it away again

SIGNED:
E. C. Vale, Programme Chair
M. Halden, Chief Engineer
A. J. Marr, Human Factors



recognized