

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

National Center for Supercomputing Applications
1008 NCSA Building
1205 West Clark Street
Urbana, IL 61801



Dear Luiz

We want to thank you for taking on the task of organizing the independent validation of the test, preliminary and annual releases of data to the Dark Energy Survey Collaboration.

As you know, the preliminary and annual releases are the culmination of tens of thousands of man-hours of work at the Cerro Tololo Inter American Observatory, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, and a distributed software development effort which includes tens of scientists in the collaboration. These data releases are consumed by approximately 300 scientists in Europe, North, and South America.

The independent check of the data you are providing is crucial for making progress in maturing the software and production processes. This is because as we work with DECam data to understand the details of calibrating and correcting the data, the software is in flux, and benefits from continuous scrutiny.

The quick feedback your group is able provide using the portal framework at Linea is extremely valuable to assess the progress in producing data. When taken together – your professional facility; your work to provide for smooth data flow from NCSA to Brazil; and your web-based framework form capabilities which have taken years to develop, are unique to the collaboration, and are of immense help to the collaboration.

We look forward to working with your group throughout the lifetime of the survey data processing effort. There is great promise of 7 years of additional collaboration.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald Petravick".

Donald Petravick
Principal Investigator, Dark Energy Data Management

Rob Pennington
Deputy Director for Data and Information