

LSST Dark Energy Science Collaboration
Builder Status Policy

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DESC Builder Status Policy

DESC Builder status definition

“DESC Builder status” is considered an award given by the LSST DESC to those members who have made significant contributions to building the collaboration, both its community and its simulation and analysis pipeline and infrastructure software. According to the publication authorship rights defined in the LSST DESC Publication Policy:

“DESC Builders can join the list of authors of all Key Papers; they can also join the list of authors of any Standard Papers enabled by their contributions. DESC Full Members can join the list of authors of any Key or Standard Papers to which they made significant contributions.”

See the Publication Policy for definitions of Key Papers and Standard Papers.

DESC Builder policy

The policy defining the criteria by which DESC Full Members can become Builders is as follows.

- **Principle:** DESC Builder status is a lifetime award to recognize extensive contributions to our collaboration that enable a wide array of DESC papers.¹
- **Eligibility:** Full members with typically at least 1 calendar year full-time-effort (FTE) on building work for DESC, as defined below.
- **Implementation:** The existing Membership Committee will evaluate nominations (including self-nominations) in consultation with the Working Group co-conveners and, as needed, relevant coordinators. Upon assessment of the Builder status application, the Membership Committee should decide between granting the award or providing feedback on how to achieve the eligibility criteria and a timetable for reconsideration. If an appeal is made, the Collaboration Council will set up an ad hoc committee to consider it. Calls for nominations will be advertized semi-annually, but nominations will be welcome at any point throughout the year. The nomination must demonstrate that the building work has made a sufficient contribution to be awarded Builder status. DESC Builder awards will be announced to the collaboration by e-mail and at collaboration meetings, enumerating the contributions made by each Builder.

¹A simple way to view this is that allowing DESC Builders to join the list of authors of all DESC Key Papers should not represent a major change in standard authorship practice; DESC Builders should have made contributions that would be considered significant enough and broad enough to already entitle them to authorship on most Key Papers.

- **Authorship:** DESC Builders can join the list of authors of all Key Papers; they can also join the list of authors of any Standard Papers enabled by their contributions. Announcements of Key Papers and Standard papers will be sent by e-mail to the collaboration; DESC Builders will be invited to request authorship.

Detailed requirements

1. Definition of building work

The DESC Builders are the people who built the DESC software and the DESC community. Building work encompasses work on DESC infrastructure, software, hardware, operations, management, and community service, and is defined as essentially anything that builds or maintains our collaboration. Examples of building tasks that could contribute to Builder status include contributions to: the development of DESC-specific software and related research notes (Core Cosmology Library, PhoSim upgrades for DESC, etc.), infrastructure work to enable Data Challenges, construction of collaboration-wide pipelines (e.g., fake object injection pipeline), crafting amendments to the governance plan, writing key collaboration planning documents (such as DESC’s Science Roadmap or Science Requirements Document), committee service time, fundraising, hosting meetings, training and acting as ombudsperson or meeting contact person, lecturing or giving tutorials at collaboration meetings, participating in internal review, and so on. It is the responsibility of the Working Group conveners (in consultation with DESC Management and Leadership) to help identify tasks that can count towards Builder status and communicate this information to their working group via the group’s confluence page. Building tasks can also be self-reported and the Membership Committee will consult with the committee chair and Collaboration Council if any query arises.

2. Time contribution

The suggested minimum of “1 year FTE” refers to an effective 1 calendar year full-time-effort on building work. This could be achieved over several years.

Recognition of LSST Builders

LSST Builders who are Full Members of the DESC are welcome to be nominated or to self-nominate for DESC Builder status. The same criteria as for any other Full Member of DESC will apply.

Additional information & timeline

This policy is the result of discussions between the members of the “Membership Review and Builder Status (MRBS) policy committee”, whose members are: Elisa Chisari (chair), Eric Gawiser, Eric Aubourg, Phil Marshall, Andy Connolly, Andrei Nomerotski, Michael Strauss and Joe Zuntz.

The committee started discussions in the summer of 2016 when preparing a set of initial guidelines about Builder status to help the collaboration think through the advisory vote on the Publication Policy.

The committee met in person at the SLAC DESC meeting in February 2017, leading to a slightly more detailed proposed policy that is consistent with the initial guidelines. A summary document was produced which was presented to the Collaboration Council for discussion in March 2017. The CC gave feedback and requested that the discussion be opened to the collaboration.

The MRBS committee produced a second summary document and a feedback form that were presented to the CC and the spokesperson team in June 2017. After some feedback, these were made available to the collaboration in June 2017 for feedback via e-mail & Slack.

The committee met in person at the Stony Brook University DESC meeting in July 2017, and received comments from DESC colleagues at an open town hall. After this iteration, further comments were provided by the collaboration in January 2018. Those comments, and the replies to the form, have been considered and incorporated in this document. Further comments were given by the CC in March 2018 before the final vote.