

# 2013 Theory Consolidated Grants: Overview

Simon Hands (co-chair PPGP)

UK Theory Town Meeting  
IPPP Durham, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013

# CGI3 run along very similar lines to CGI1

Bidding process brought forward by 12 months to synch with PDRA hiring  
2 year gap  $\Rightarrow$  strong case for continuity

A new feature: only one theory CG per university

## PPGP membership

Simon Hands (Swansea, chair)

Silvia Pascoli (IPPP Durham, core)

Luigi Del Debbio (Edinburgh)

Mark Hindmarsh (Sussex)

Neil Lambert (KCL)

Apostolos Pilaftsis (Manchester)

Radu Tatar (Liverpool)

Robert Thorne (UCL)

Joel Goldstein (Bristol, exp chair)

Matthew Wing (UCL, exp core)

# Consolidated Grants 2013

17 applications from 23 institutions  
(5 from consortia)

supporting 185 academics in 48 scientific areas

1 new group (Surrey) bid in 2013

## Indicative Budget

	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
PPGP(T) grants line	5354	5530	5562	5798
Committed	2426	20	-	-
Conferences/New Applicants	23	25	25	25
Isaac Newton Institute	100	100	100	100
Available	2805	5385	5437	5673
Requested	8036	16242	15817	8097
$\Delta$	-5231	-10857	-10380	-2424

# Timetable

- 12/12/12 Guidelines published
- 6/2/13 Deadline for proposals
- 2 - 5 /13 Referee assessment
- 5/13 Panel scoring of proposals
- 18-19/6/13 PPGP meeting
- 24/6/13 follow-up telecon
- 11/7/13 accepted by Science Board

**Announcements by end of 2013?**

105 referees (UK + international) used - average of 6 per bid.  
Referees comment on particular scientific areas, not whole bid.  
Comments sent to PIs, responses considered by PPGP

# Assessment Criteria

Category 1	Category 2
Scientific Excellence	Productivity
International Competitiveness	Quality of Leadership
Strategic Value	Suitability of Institution

Scores based on Category 1 used to perform initial ranking.  
Subsequent reranking at Panel meeting mainly focussed on mid-list.

No panellist scores or comments on bid from own institution.

# Pathways to Impact

PTI statements were assessed independently  
by specialists within STFC

**Knowledge Exchange:** disappointing, typically focussed on  
previous activity rather than looking forward.

A forgivable oversight in a REF year?

**Public Engagement:** evidence of excellent activity.

3 outstanding PE requests recommended awards  
totalling £21k

# DiRAC HPC recurrent costs

Recent BIS/STFC capital investment in HPC has not been matched by sustainable recurrent funding (electricity, system support...)

DiRAC recurrent costs were tensioned against rest of PPT programme in CGI I

Pending Programmatic Review, DiRAC users (lattice QCD, cosmology) advised by STFC to bid for recurrent costs in CGI 3

Total bid £1.86M for 2014-17 (~11% of programme) revised downwards to £1.19M in consultation with DiRAC PMB, Project and Technical Directors

# The Outcome

Initial scan of bids yielded *optimal funding scenario*

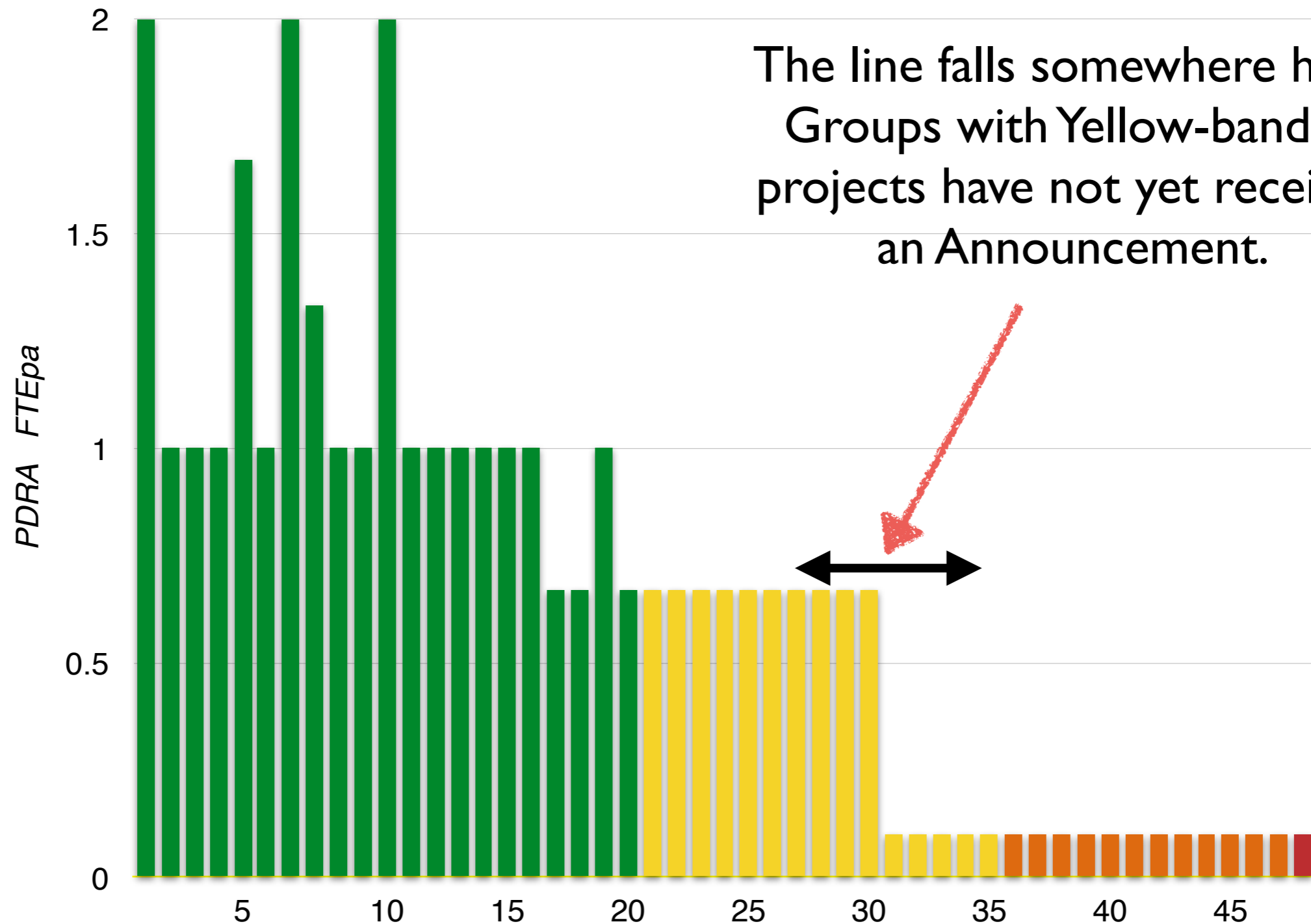
	PDRAs	students	core FTE	academic FTE
<b>Fundable</b>	51.7	3	1.4	88.6
<b>“Funded”</b>	~29.7	1	1	23.7

Projects recommended funding in three bands:

	# projects	PDRAs	academic FTE	max FEC
<b>leading</b>	20	23	11.7	20%
<b>important</b>	15	6.7	9.3	15%
<b>competitive</b>	12	-	2.7	10%
<b>not funded</b>	1	-	-	-



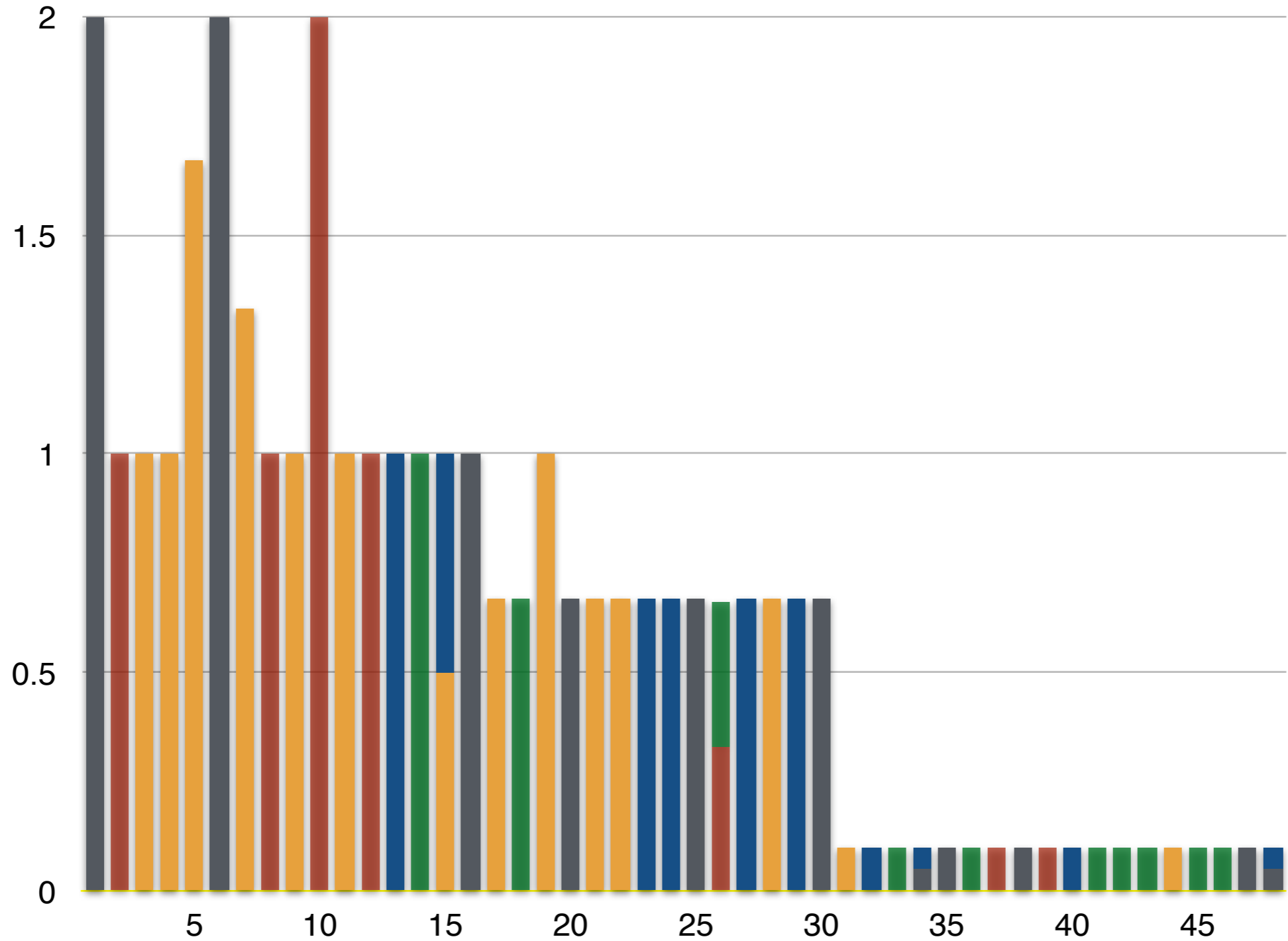
# PDRA distribution by band...



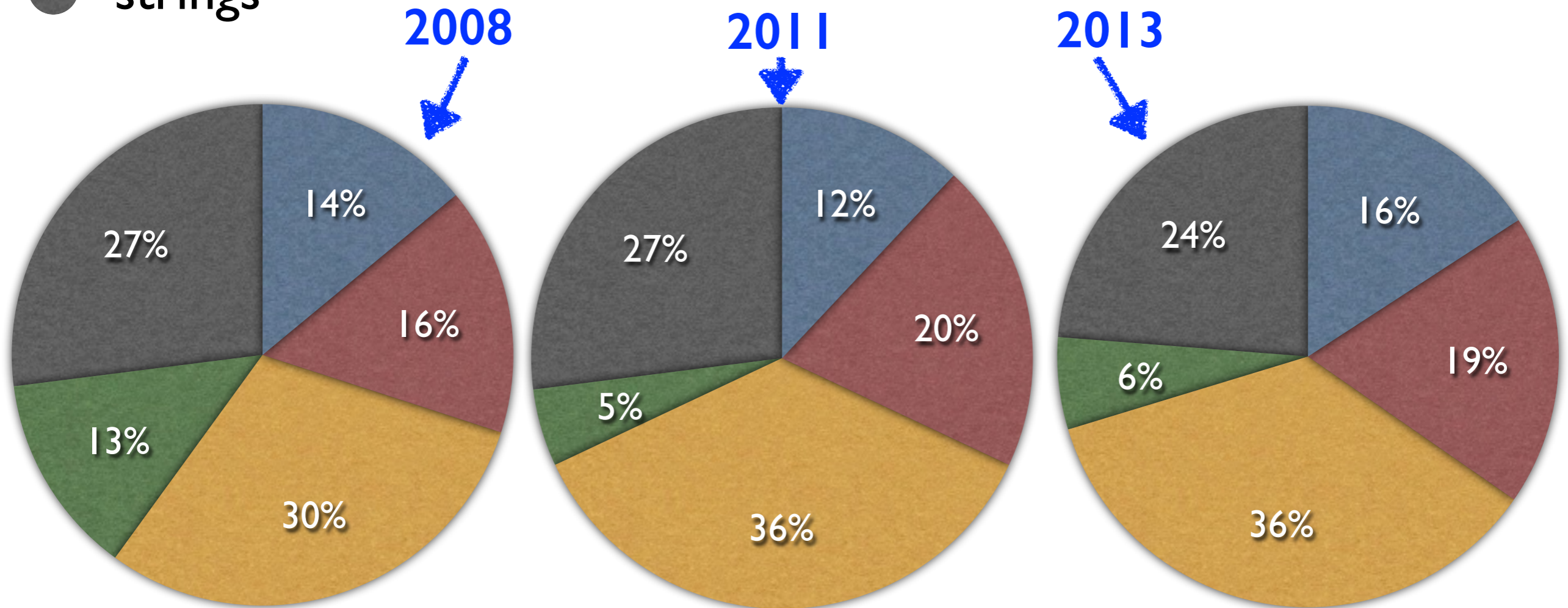
The line falls somewhere here.  
Groups with Yellow-banded projects have not yet received an Announcement.

# ... and PDRA distribution by tribe

strings lattice pheno cosmo QFT



# Slicing the PDRA cake...



- pheno stable - onset of LHC
- lattice stable - onset of DiRAC
- cosmo bounce - onset of Planck
- decline in strings/QFT over time...

# HPC Costs

Panel recommended funding DiRAC recurrent costs  
at 80% of request for Green Band projects  
50% of request for Yellow/Orange Band projects

This is matched by a collateral tapering of PDRA requests  
within relevant bids, while acknowledging the collaborative  
nature of HPC projects.

**Recommended award is £893k over 3 years**

## Travel/Consumables/Support:

awards based on guideline amounts per funded researcher.

Modest increase over 2011.

**Recommended award is £876.5k over 3 years**

# Five consortium bids in CGI 3

- Manchester - Lancaster - Sheffield
- Sussex - RHUL
- Edinburgh - Heriot Watt
- Durham - Newcastle
- Plymouth - Swansea (new)

PPGP judged consortium bid added strength in all cases, and considers it still too soon following CGI 1 to make judgements based on shared publications

Consortia not the only way to go: two Green-Banded Scientific Areas have just a single academic

- **New Applicants**

£10k pa set aside for new appointments

- **Conferences/Short Courses**

£15k pa (small increase)

enquiries to Jane Long

[Jane.Long@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:Jane.Long@stfc.ac.uk)

- **Isaac Newton Institute**

£100k pa to INI

≈ 2 major programmes in PPT over 3 years

**Please consider making a bid!**

# Trends over time

2013 figures provisional....

	2005	2008	2011	2013
# bidding academics	122	155	163	185
Budget (inc FEC)	-	£16.4M	£14.5M	£14.5M
maximum FEC	-	28.5%	20%	20%
average FEC	-	20%	14%	16%
PDRAs	34 (+7 SPG)	34.3 (+1 SPG)	29.3	29.7

Questions?