

**Prof. Colin Cunningham**  
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**Speaker biography:** Prof. Colin Cunningham is the Director, UK Extremely Large Telescopes Programme at the UK Astronomy Technology Centre at the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh, Scotland. He has over thirty years experience in electronic and systems engineering, project management and technology management for a range of scientific applications including biology, geophysics and astronomy. From 1987 he has been based at the Royal Observatory Edinburgh, where he was project manager of the SCUBA submillimetre camera (recently awarded the 2009 team achievement award by the Royal Astronomical Society) and lead systems engineer from 1997-2001 for the SPIRE instrument on the about to be launched Herschel Space Observatory. He was Deputy Director of the UK Astronomy Technology Centre from its inception in 1998 until 2002. His primary responsibility now is to lead the UK's efforts towards a European Extremely Large Telescope (ELT) and its associated instruments and systems. He chairs the European Framework 6/7 Opticon Key Technologies Network, is PI of the Opticon Smart Focal Planes Project, PI of the UK ELT R&D Programme and is a member the European Southern Observatory ELT Instrumentation Working Group. He is a member of the management teams for the Scottish Universities Physics Alliance 'Technology for Experimental and Observational Physics' programme, and the Edinburgh Research Partnership's 'Institute for Integrated Systems'. He is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the IET, Member of the IoP and SPIE, and is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at Glasgow University, and Honorary Professor at Heriot Watt and Edinburgh Universities.