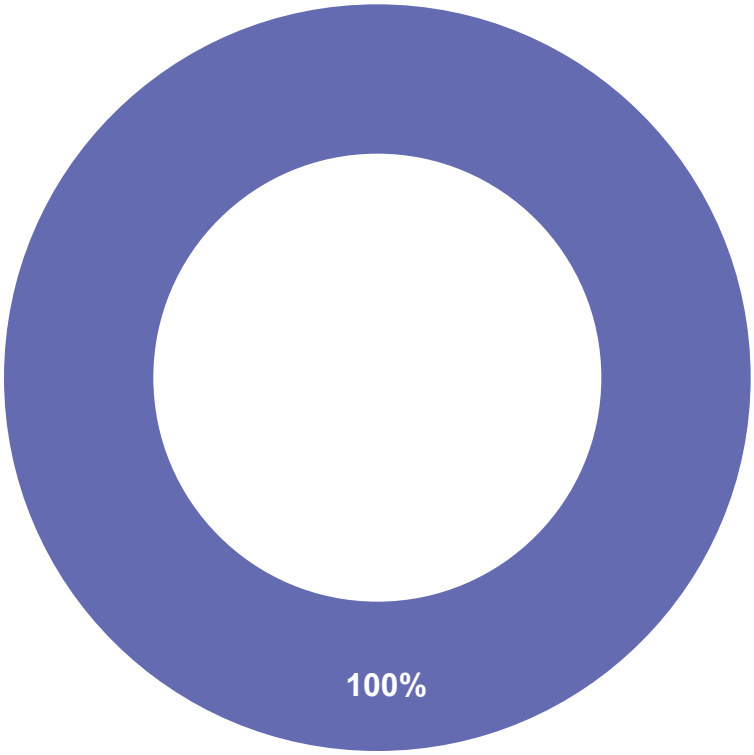
Q1

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Please note that this survey does not cover the ASCOM Camera interface. We know this area is in a state of flux, and we expect to make additions to the API to accommodate the new sCMOS technology and its needs. Also ASCOM Camera does not apply to planetary high speed imaging. So please help us with your experiences with the *other* ASCOM APIs.*



Answered
14

Unanswered
0

Choice	Total
OK, I understand. No worries.	14

- OK, but I am primarily interested in Camera! 0

Q2

What is your company name and the name of your astronomy application?

This is optional. If you wish to remain anonymous you may do so.

ESSAY

July 8, 2019 8:26 PM
Omega Lab.
Ricerca (Search)

June 8, 2019 2:36 PM
FocusMax autofocus application

June 6, 2019 11:13 PM
Nova Astronomics - Abbey Ridge Auto-Pilot and Earth Centered Universe Planetarium (have also written a few drivers for uncommon hardware)

June 6, 2019 4:03 PM
ALCOR-SYSTEM
PRISM

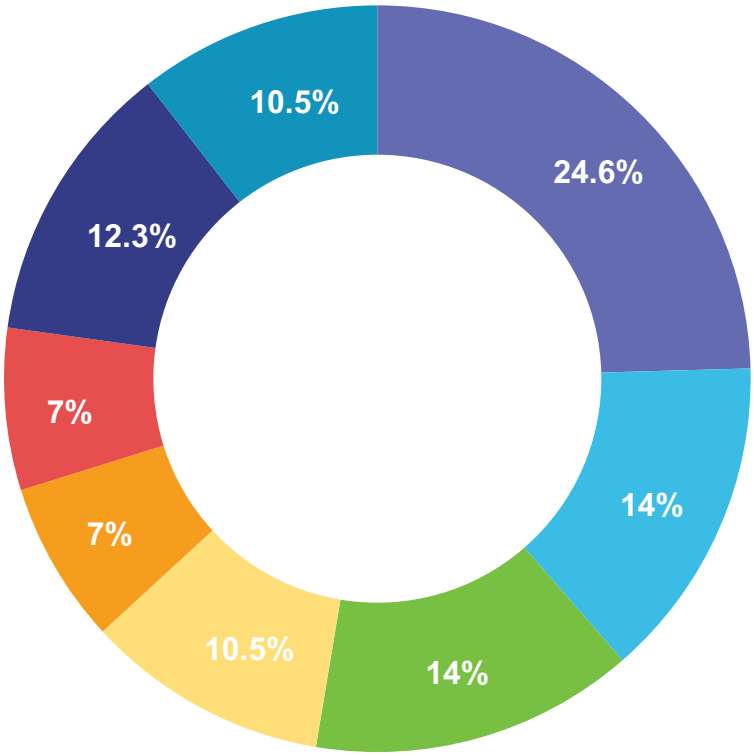
June 4, 2019 4:41 AM
Company: Main Sequence Software
Primary Application: Sequence Generator Pro

Q3

Which ASCOM-compatible devices does your application use?*

Check all that apply

MULTIPLE CHOICE



Answered
14

Unanswered
0

Choice	Total
Telescope	14
Dome	8
Focuser	8
Rotator	6

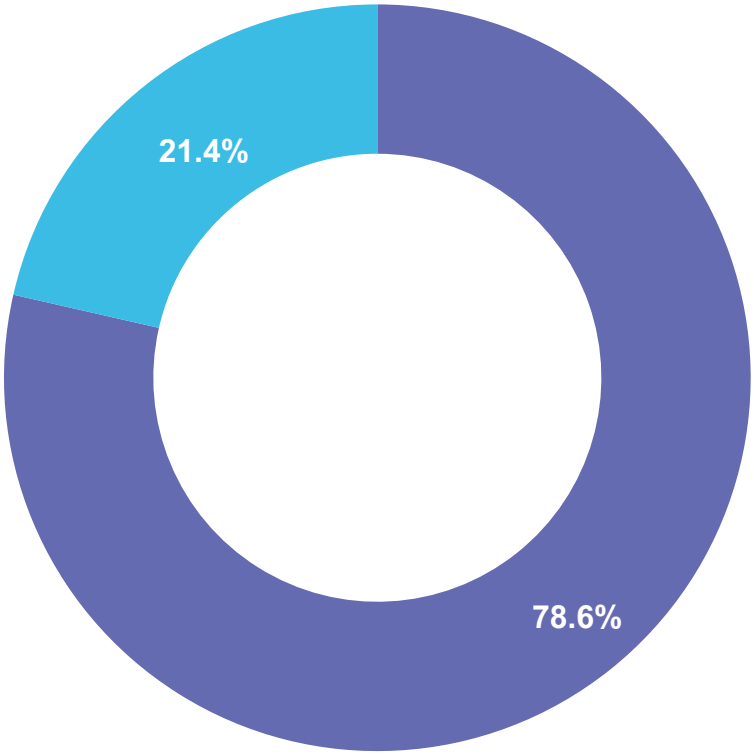
SafetyMonitor	4
Switch	4
FilterWheel	7
ObservingConditions	6
Video	0

Q4

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Do the existing ASCOM APIs cover all of your application's *operational* needs for *those* devices?*

If not please help us by providing additional detail. This is a core value for us. By "operational" we mean the things your users need in order to do astronomy - routine usage.



Answered
14

Unanswered
0

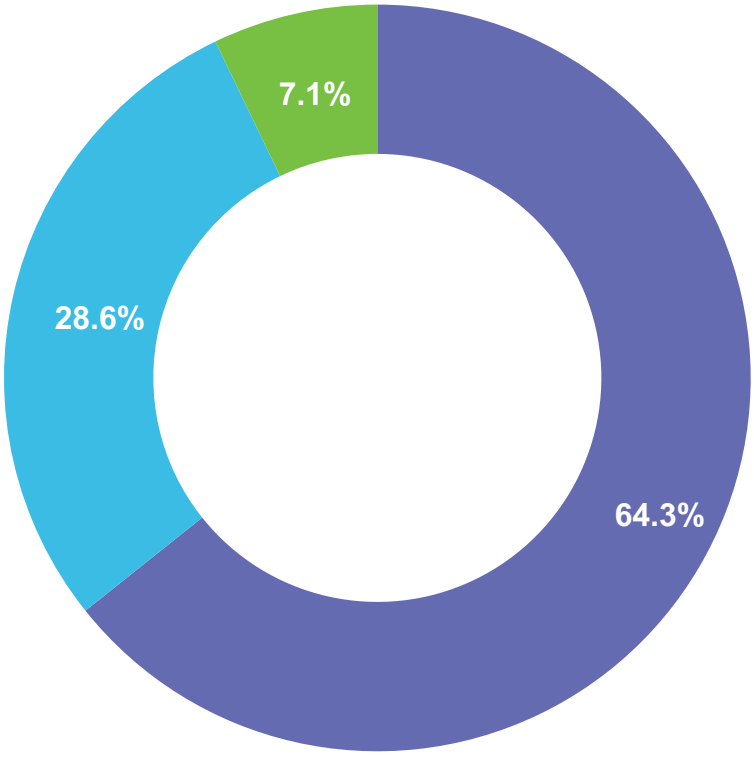
Choice	Total
Yes	11
No	3

Q5

MULTIPLE CHOICE

How important is it that device-specific features are managed within a user interface provided by the manufcturer?*

Do you want the manufacturer to take full responsibility for the device's controls while providing you a standard ASCOM interface for operational use?



Answered
14

Unanswered
0

Choice	Total
Very Important	9
Somewhat Important	4

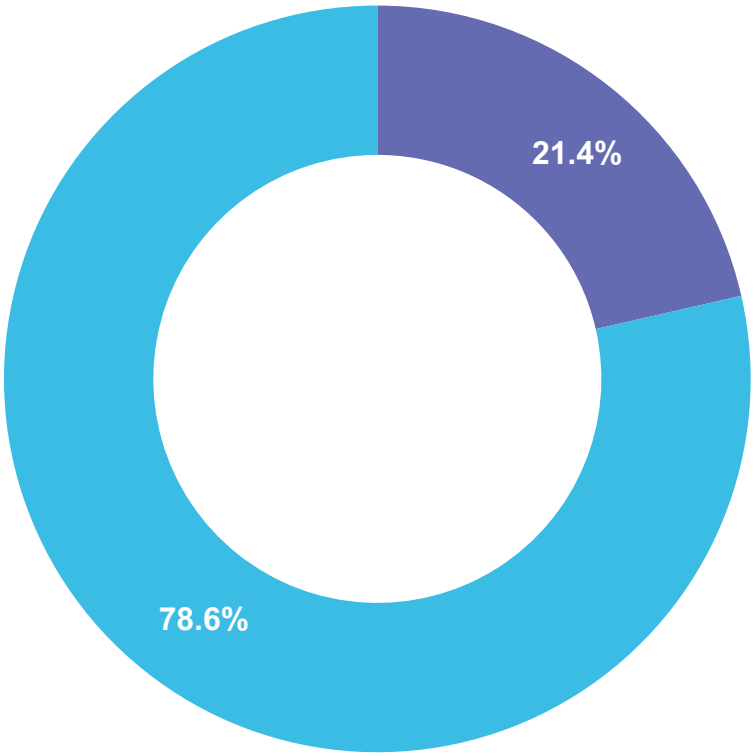
Not Important	1

Q6

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Have you found a *need* to bypass ASCOM and use a proprietary / device-specific API in order for your users to fulfill their *primary usage* of your application?*

If yes, help us by describing your application's need for all bypasses you found necessary



Answered
14

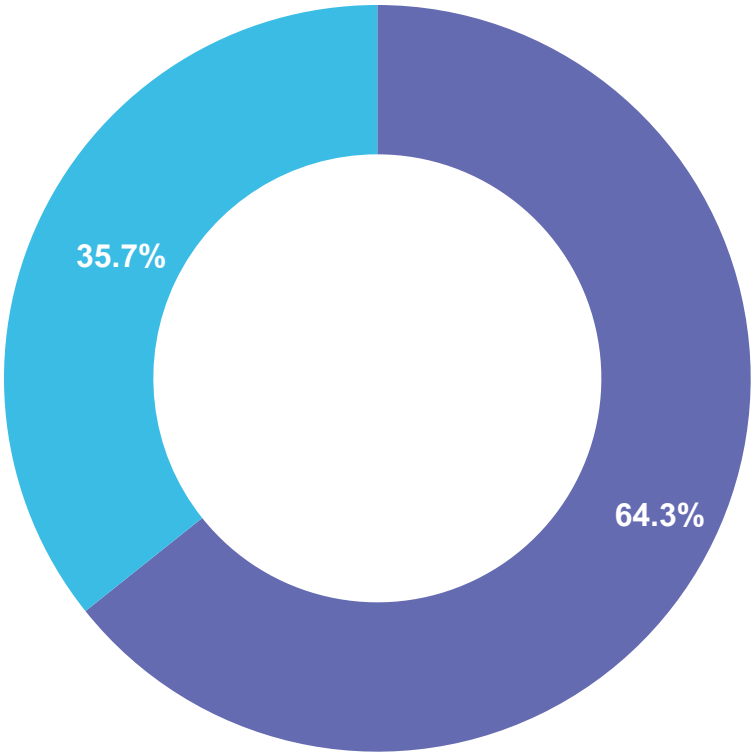
Unanswered
0

Choice	Total
Yes	3
No	11

Q7

MULTIPLE CHOICE

As devices evolve and become more “advanced”, do you expect them to become easier and simpler for you and your users, or more complicated and possibly requiring more programming and controls in your application?*



Answered
14

Unanswered
0

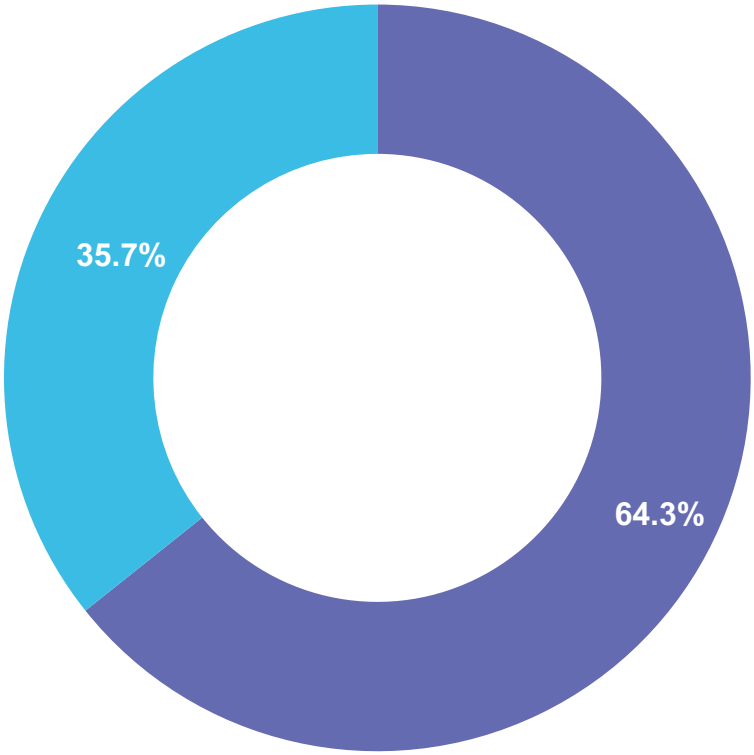
Choice	Total
Simpler, more automated and self-adjusting. Easier for users	9
More complicated requiring more user controls during operational use	5

Q8

MULTIPLE CHOICE

How important is it to you that ASCOM APIs separate the user interfaces for devices from the user interface of your application?*

Consider the future as more devices come on the market



Answered
14

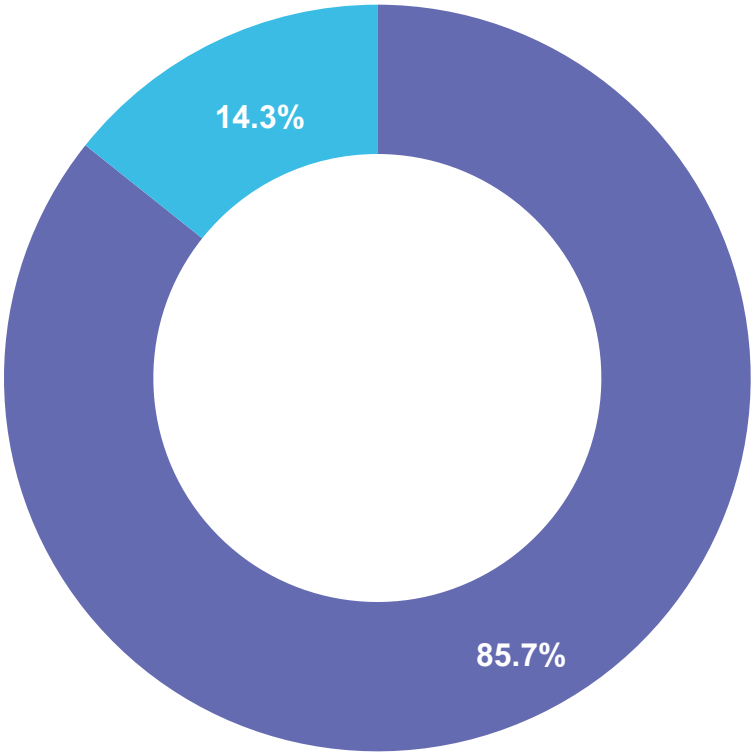
Unanswered
0

Choice	Total
Very Important	9
Somewhat Important	5
Not Important	0

Q9

How important is it for your application to be compatible with new devices that come on the market, without needing new code or a new release from you?*

MULTIPLE CHOICE



Answered
14

Unanswered
0

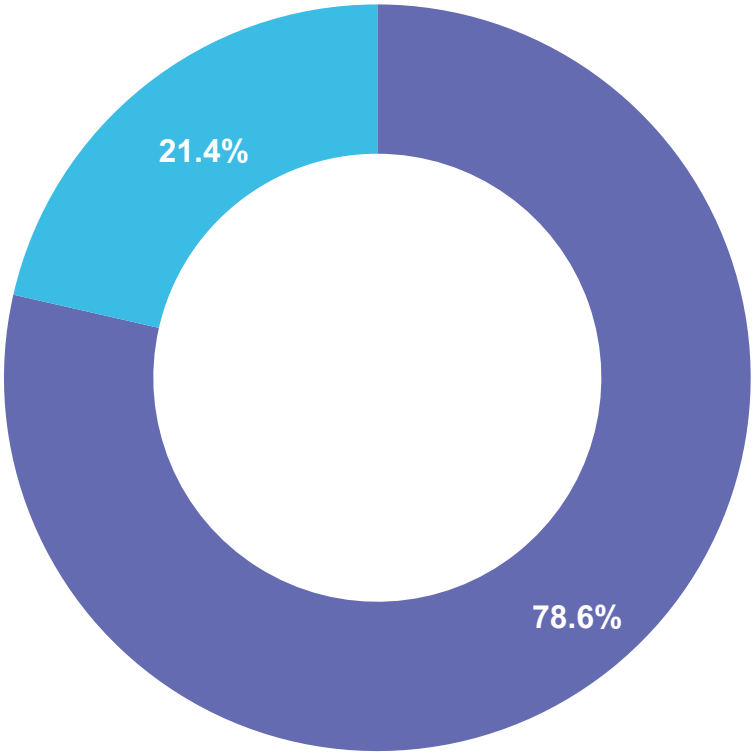
Choice	Total
Very Important	12
Somewhat Important	2
Not Important	0

Q10

MULTIPLE CHOICE

How important is it to avoid the need to use proprietary interfaces to control device-specific features?*

If you include device-specific controls, you are responsible for understanding, documenting, and supporting that aspect of the device.



Answered
14

Unanswered
0

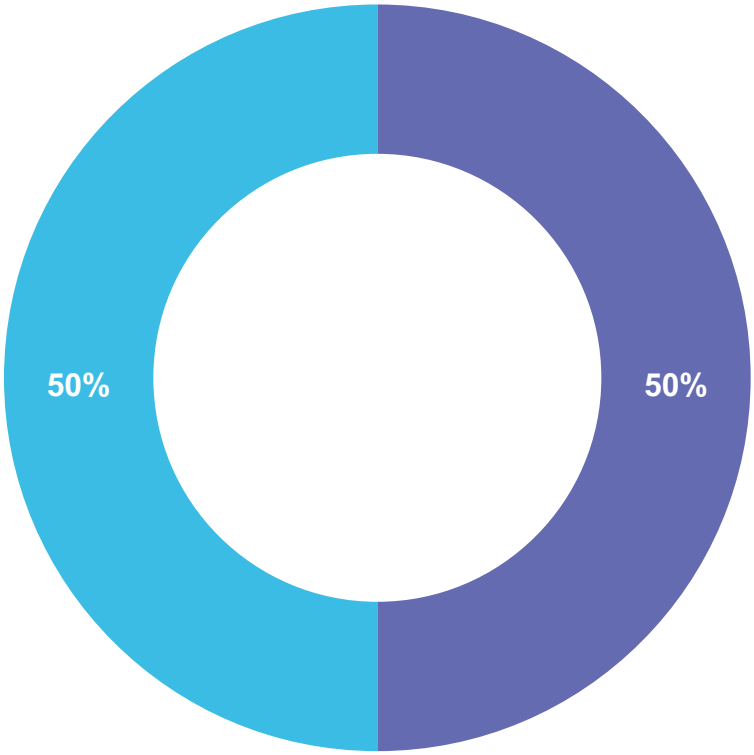
Choice	Total
Very Important	11
Somewhat Important	3
Not Important	0

Q11

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Are you aware of **Action/SupportedActions** feature that is present in all ASCOM APIs?*

Actions enable arbitrarily complex commands and data to be sent between ASCOM applications and drivers. SupportedActions provides a means to discover which Action names are implemented by a driver . Effective use of this feature requires agreement on action names and data structures between application and driver authors.



Answered
14

Unanswered
0

Choice	Total
Yes	7

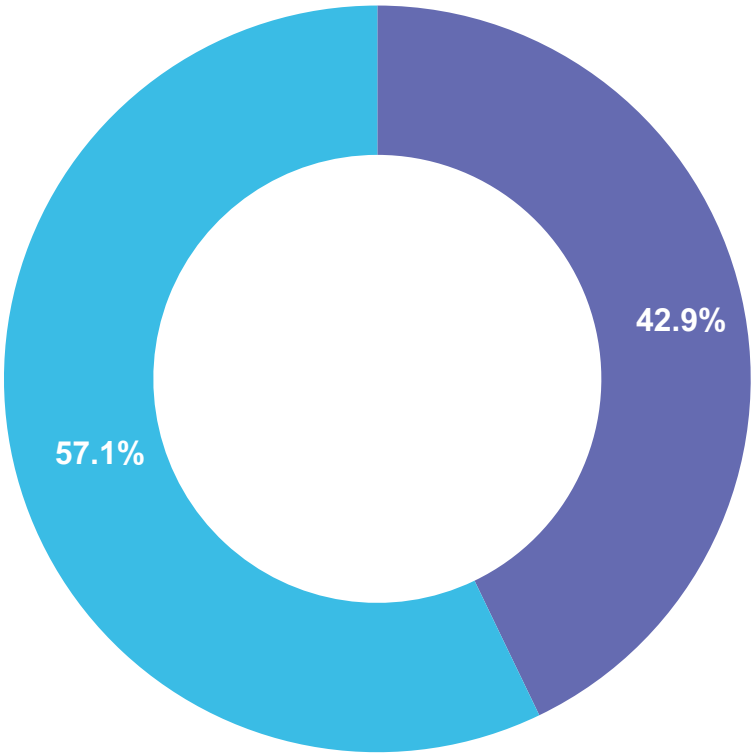
No	7

Q12

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Does your application use the **Action/ SupportedActions** feature to access device specific functions?*

If yes, please provide a brief description. This will really help us.



Answered
7

Unanswered
7

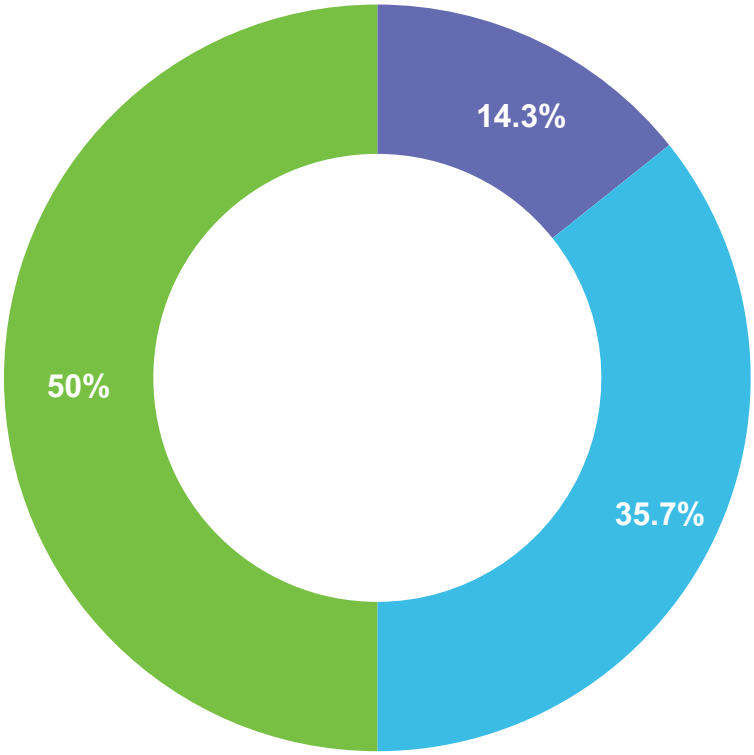
Choice	Total
Yes	3
No	4

Q13

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Do you feel that including device-specific *internal* controls within your application gives your application a competitive advantage?*

By internal we mean things like a mount's slewing dynamics



Answered
14

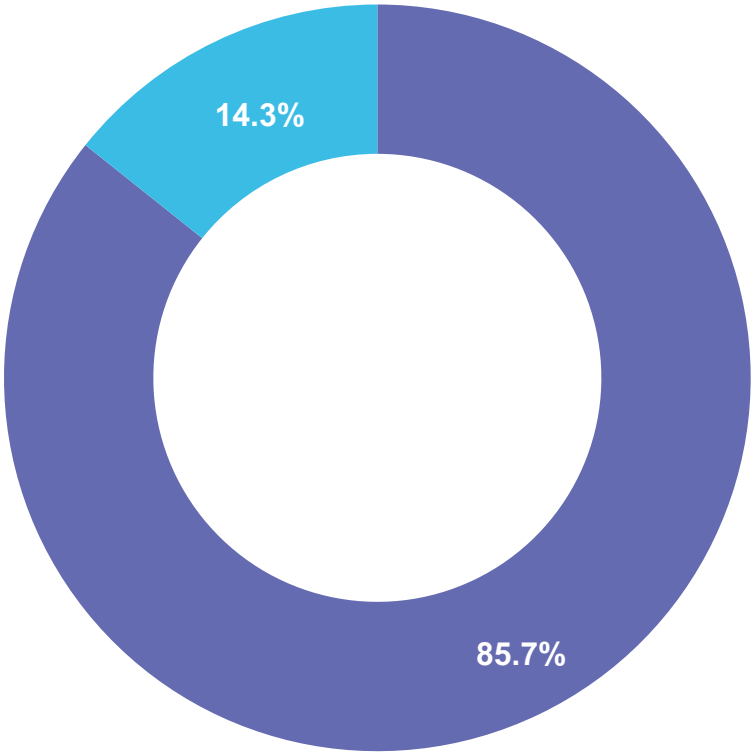
Unanswered
0

Choice	Total
Yes	2
Maybe	5
No	7

Q14

Are you aware of the ASCOM Alpaca cross-platform and internet version of the ASCOM APIs?*

MULTIPLE CHOICE



Answered
14

Unanswered
0

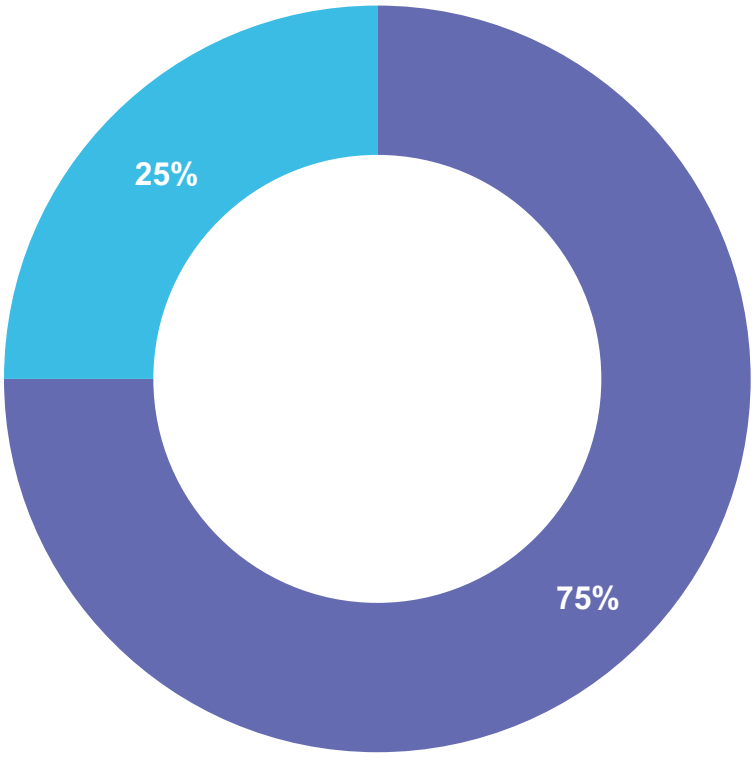
Choice	Total
Yes	12
No	2

Q15

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Is it important to you that Alpaca implement the same ASCOM APIs as the current Windows/COM implementation?*

This would include any additions to the APIs going forward would be on COM and Alpaca



Answered
12

Unanswered
2

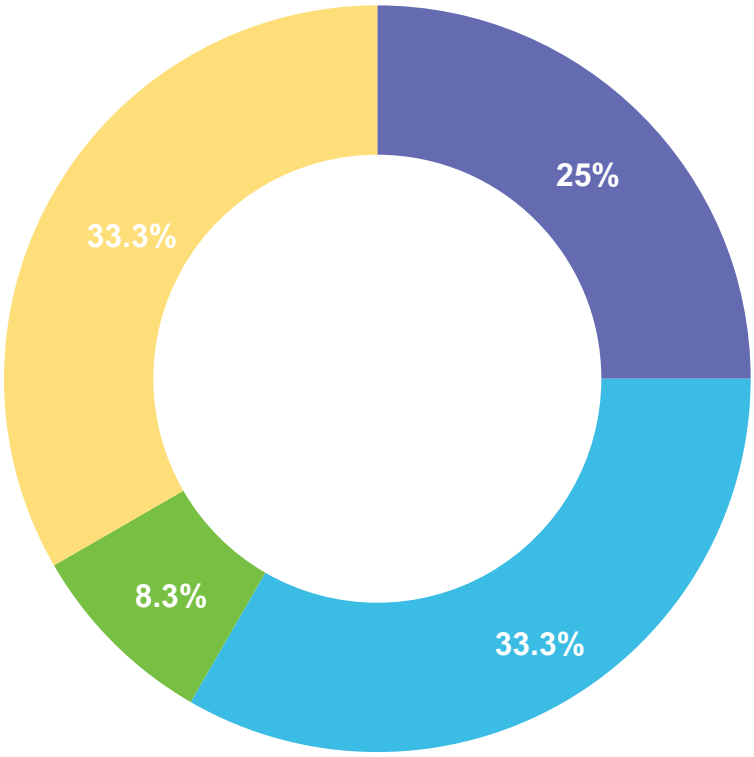
Choice	Total
Yes	9
No	3

Q16

Do you plan to incorporate Alpaca compatibility into your application?*

Keep in mind that your ASCOM/COM Windows application is already Alpaca compatible via ASCOM Remote

MULTIPLE CHOICE



Answered
12

Unanswered
2

Choice	Total
I have already done this	3
Yes	4
Yes, if I create a version for Mac or Linux	1

I'm not sure	4
No	0

Q17

ESSAY

Do you have any other brief feedback to pass along to our team relating to the ASCOM APIs? If the issue is complex, please post it to the ASCOM Driver and Application Development Support Forum .

July 8, 2019 8:26 PM
Briefly, I think that some telescope drivers want to do many of the operations that clients need to do.This creates a lot of confusion and subtracts time from computer resources and makes everything less stable.

June 8, 2019 2:36 PM
I have been very happy with the ASCOM through the years! The team does an excellent job of staying on-top of evolving hardware and user needs.

June 6, 2019 11:13 PM
Keep up the good work!
Keep trying to get equipment manufacturers to develop and maintain ASCOM drivers, rather than volunteer/best able efforts.
Pressure Diffraction Limited/SBIG to write ascom camera drivers for their cameras!

June 6, 2019 4:03 PM
This is not very clear how this work with 64 bit native applications, I have the feeling that many old ASCOM driver cannot do this but I have no idea how this can be documented…
Also in the past huge issues with non English PCs (figures formatting and "." and "," issues) and ascom drivers.
May be the ascom validator takes care of this today ?
Indeed I may ask something that I have been fixed already, I'm sorry if this is the case.

June 4, 2019 4:41 AM
Keep up the great work! SGP would likely not exist without ASCOM...and it certainly wouldn't be as feature rich if we had to spend the vast majority of our time supporting hardware we don't readily have access to!