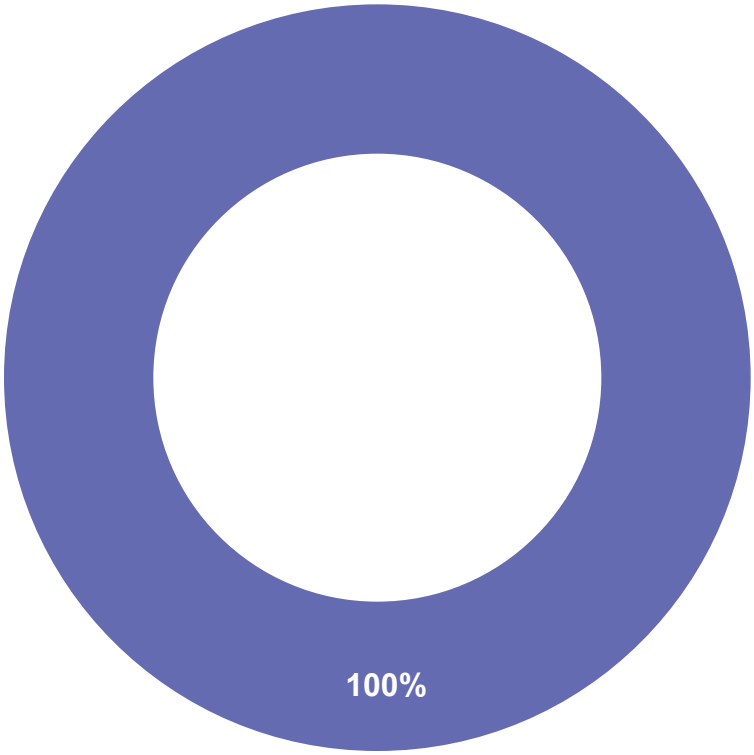
Q1

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
10

Unanswered
0

Choice	Total
OK, I understand. No worries.	10

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

Q2

What is your company name and the name of your astronomical device (or device famiily) for this survey?

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

ESSAY

July 8, 2019 10:30 PM
PlaneWave Instruments

July 8, 2019 10:19 PM
PlaneWave Instruments. Mounts: PW1000, CDK700, L-series mounts, A200 mount. Focusers/Rotators: IRF90 Rotating Focuser, Hedrick Focuser.

July 8, 2019 7:50 PM
Astro-Physics, Inc. German Equatorial mounts

June 6, 2019 10:24 PM
Chris Rowland. Have developed drivers for a variety of companies.

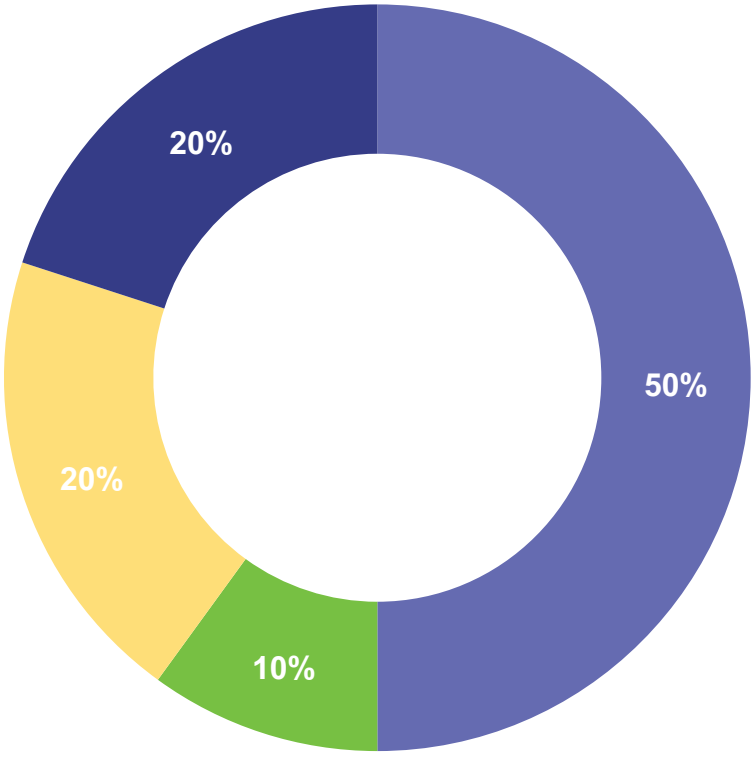
June 6, 2019 4:07 PM
Diffraction Limited, SBIG, MaxDome II, etc.

Q3

MULTIPLE CHOICE

For which ASCOM-compatible device type are you taking this survey?*

Please take the survey once for each device type that you make. Some answers apply to the specific ASCOM interface. Sorry about the duplication elsewhere.



Answered
10

Unanswered
0

Choice	Total
Telescope	5
Dome	0
Focuser	1

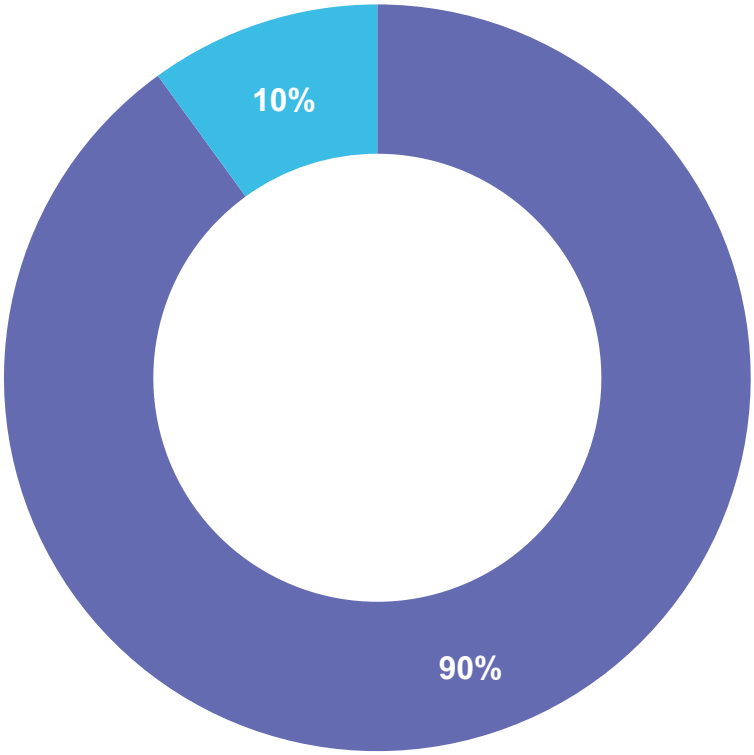
Rotator	2
SafetyMonitor	0
Switch	0
FilterWheel	2
ObservingConditions	0
Video	0

Q4

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Does the current ASCOM API for your device cover your device's *operational* needs?*

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
10

Unanswered
0

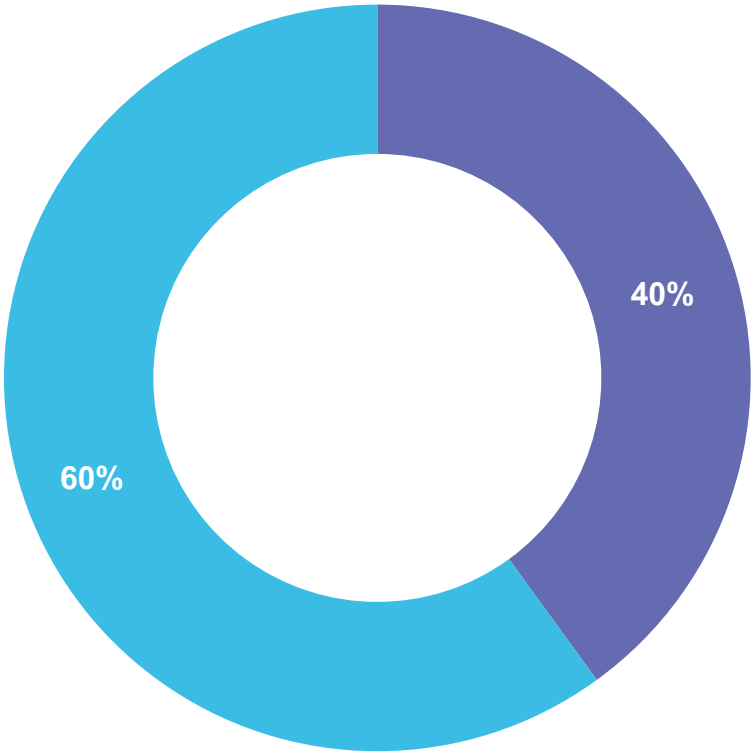
Choice	Total
Yes	9
No	1

Q5

MULTIPLE CHOICE

How important is it to you that you have complete control over the internal settings and adjustments for your device?*

Do you prefer to take full responsibility for your device's controls and metrology while providing applications a standard ASCOM interface for operational use?



Answered
10

Unanswered
0

Choice	Total
Very Important	4
Somewhat Important	6

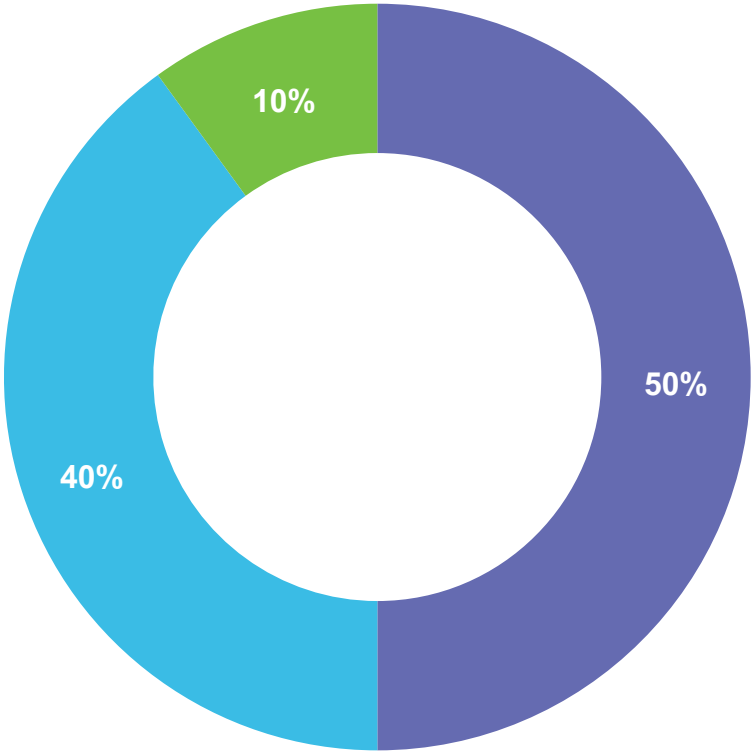
Not Important	0

Q6

MULTIPLE CHOICE

How important is it to you that ASCOM APIs separate your device's *management* user interface from the user interfaces of the applications that use your device? *

Consider the future as more applications use your device



Answered
10

Unanswered
0

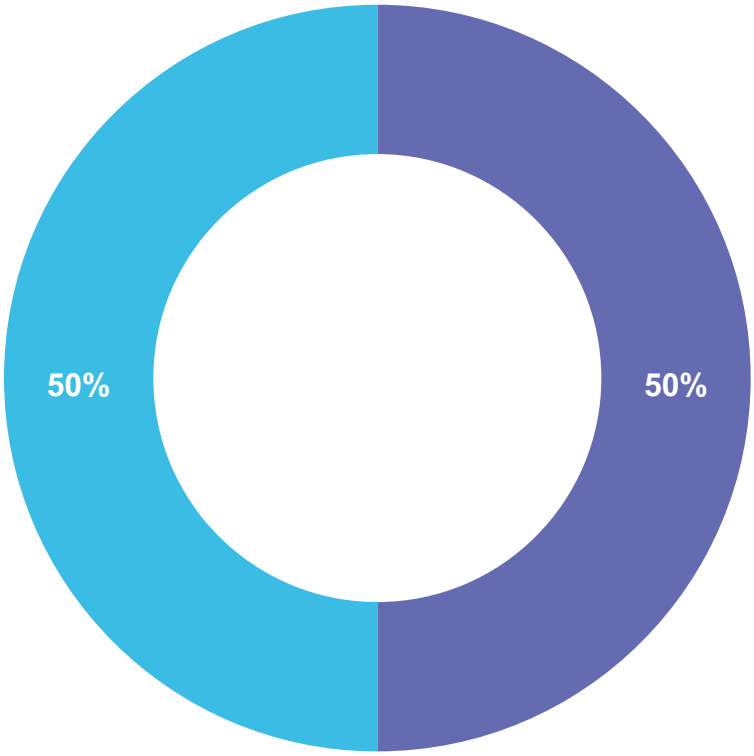
Choice	Total
Very Important	5
Somewhat Important	4
Not Important	1

Q7

MULTIPLE CHOICE

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

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



Answered
10

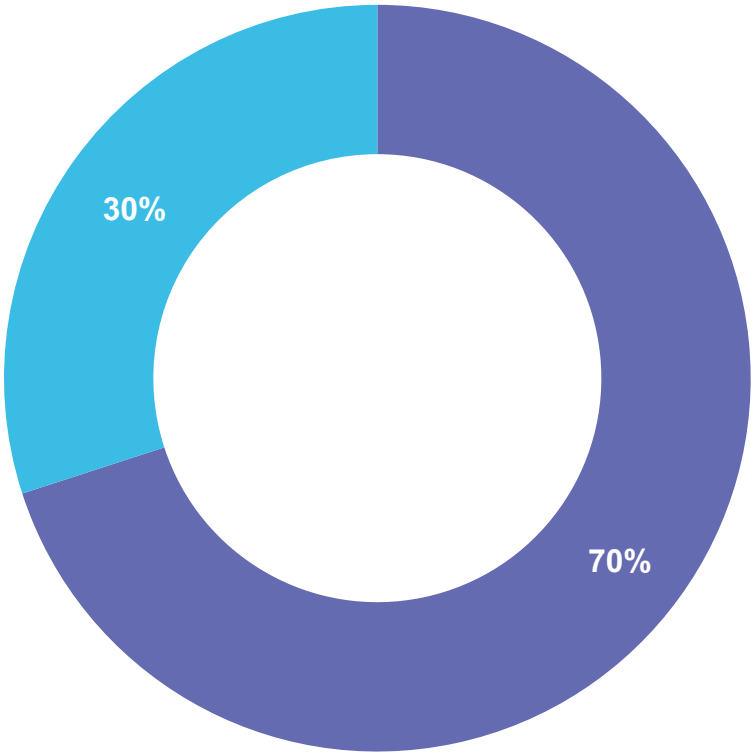
Unanswered
0

Choice	Total
Yes	5
No	5

Q8

MULTIPLE CHOICE

As your devices evolve and become more “advanced”, do you want them to become simpler to use (more automatic), or do you see them requiring more application controls and user interaction?*



Answered
10

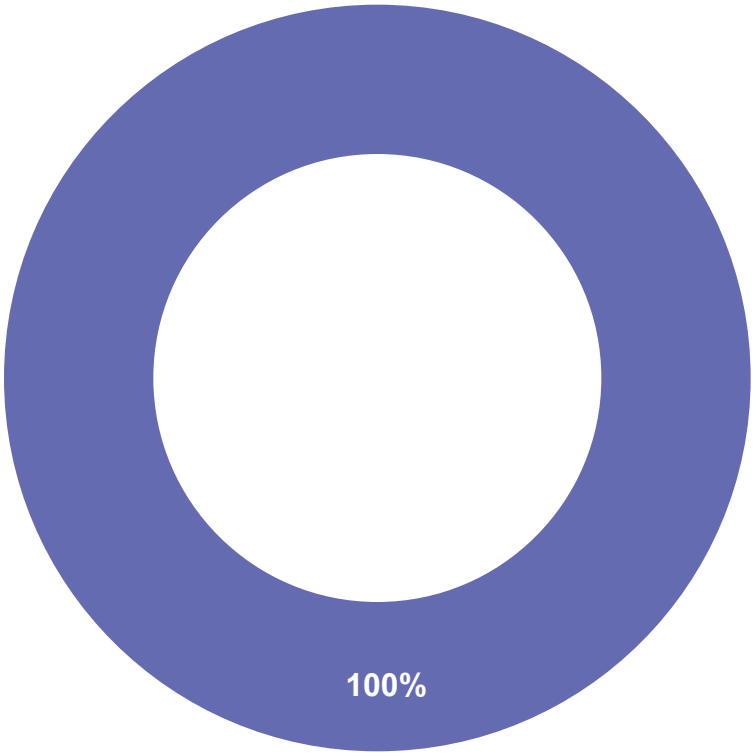
Unanswered
0

Choice	Total
Simpler, more automated and self-adjusting. Easier for users	7
More complicated requiring more user controls during operational use	3

Q9

Do you see the current ASCOM interface for your device taking you into the future for your device's *routine operations*, and if not please explain.*

MULTIPLE CHOICE



Answered
10

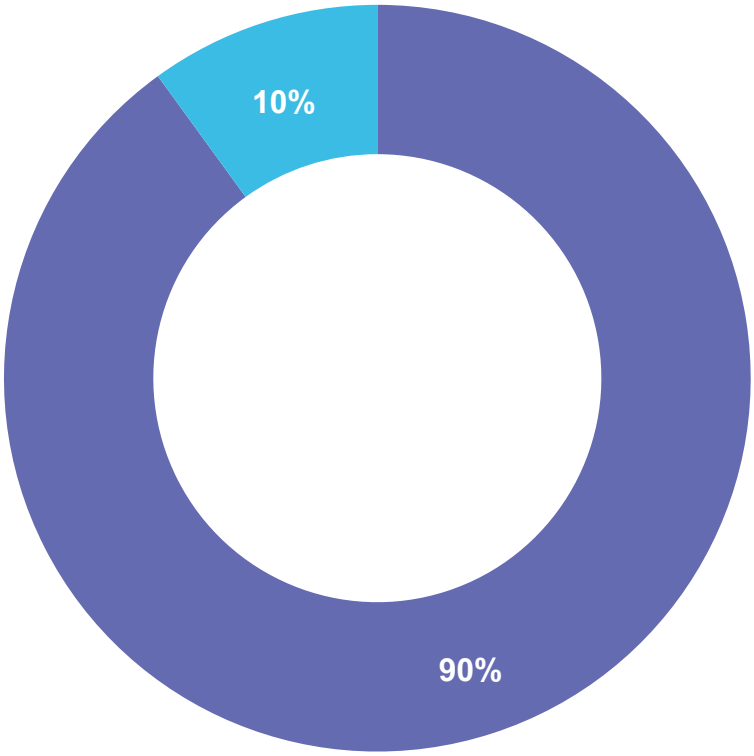
Unanswered
0

Choice	Total
Yes	10
No	0

Q10

MULTIPLE CHOICE

How important is it for your device to be compatible with new applications that come on the market, without needing to work with the application developer to include special support for your device?*



Answered
10

Unanswered
0

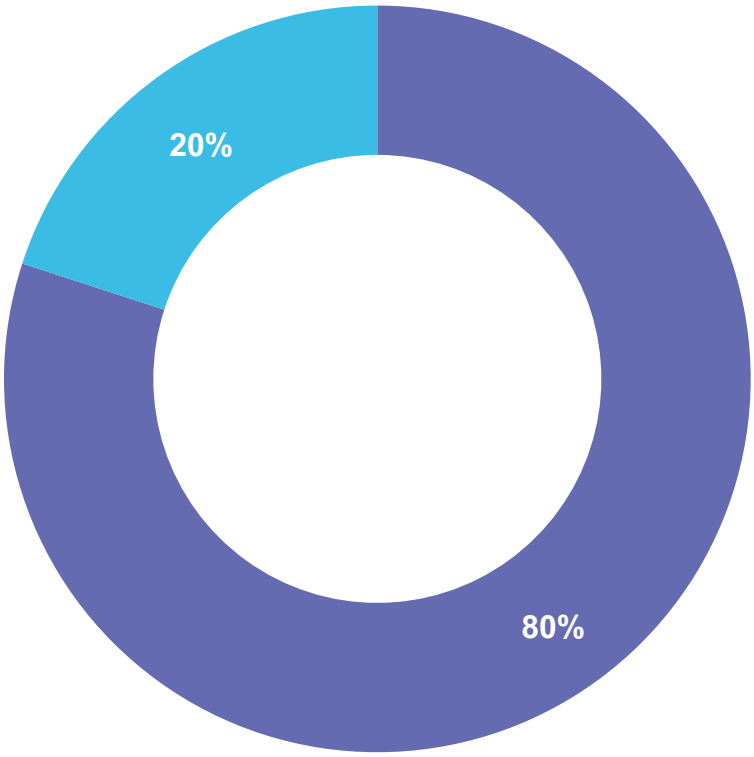
Choice	Total
Very Important	9
Somewhat Important	1
Not Important	0

Q11

MULTIPLE CHOICE

How important is it to you that applications can use your device without any special programming or controls in the application?*

If applications have some of your device's controls, your customers' user experience is partially in their hands.



Answered
10

Unanswered
0

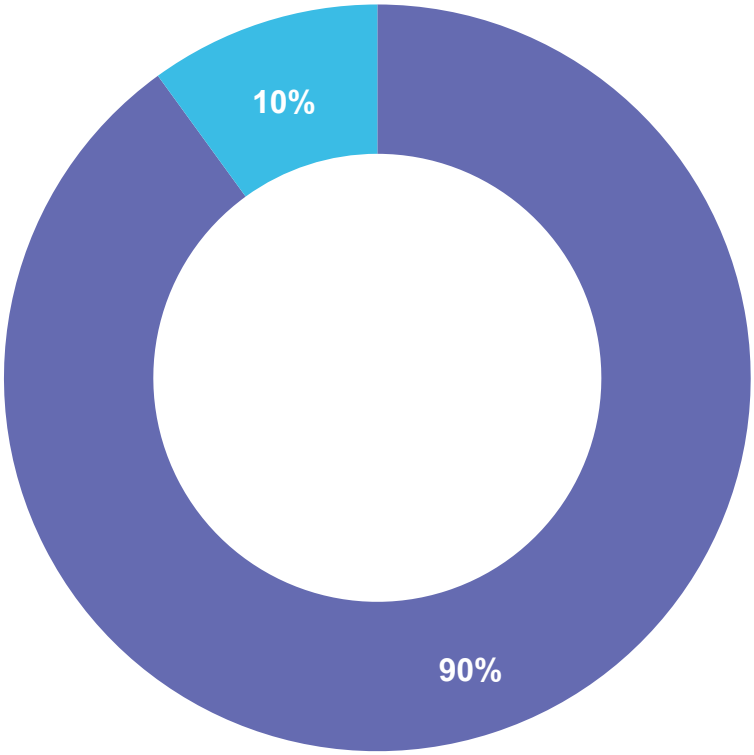
Choice	Total
Very Important	8
Somewhat Important	2
Not Important	0

Q12

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
10

Unanswered
0

Choice	Total
Yes	9

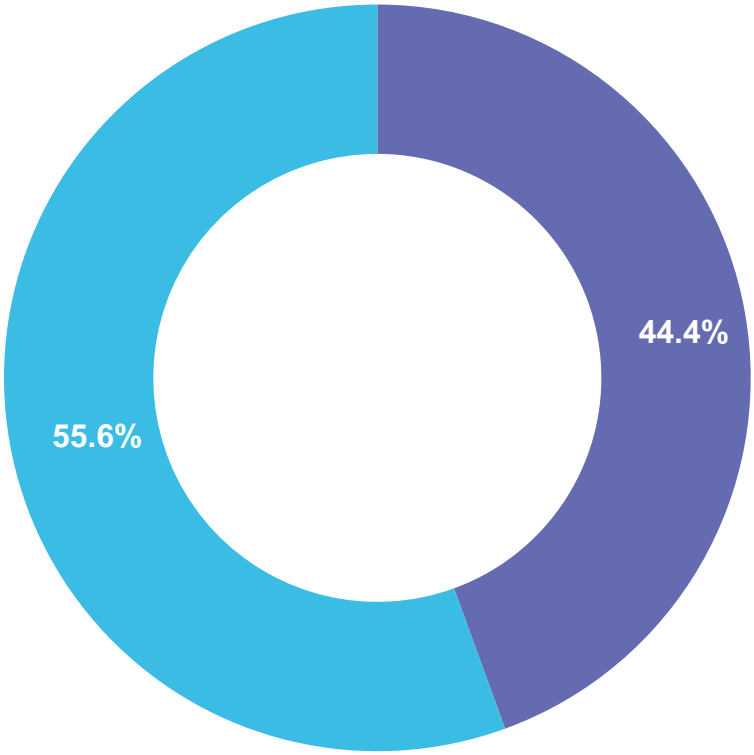
No	1

Q13

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Does your device currently provide any special features for your device via the **Action/ SupportedActions** feature of ASCOM?*

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



Answered
9

Unanswered
1

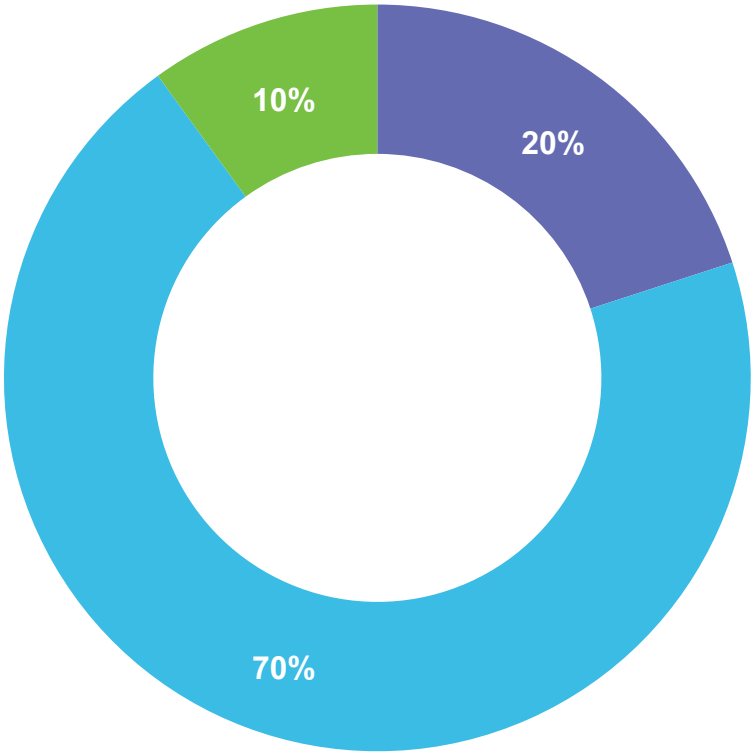
Choice	Total
Yes	4
No	5

Q14

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Do you feel that providing device-specific *internal* controls for your device to applications gives you a competitive advantage?*

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



Answered
10

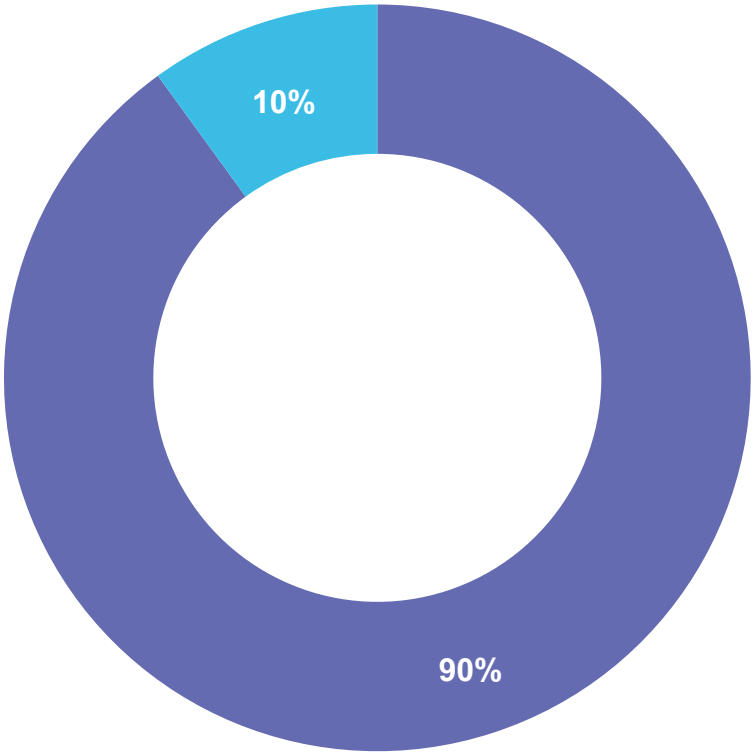
Unanswered
0

Choice	Total
Yes	2
Maybe	7
No	1

Q15

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

MULTIPLE CHOICE



Answered
10

Unanswered
0

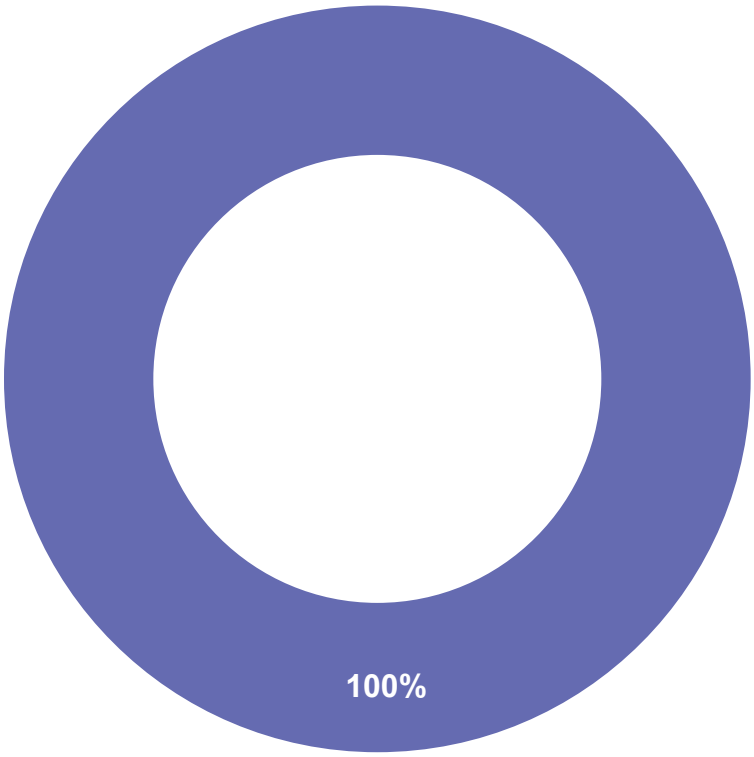
Choice	Total
Yes	9
No	1

Q16

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Is it important to you that Alpaca implement the same proven 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
9

Unanswered
1

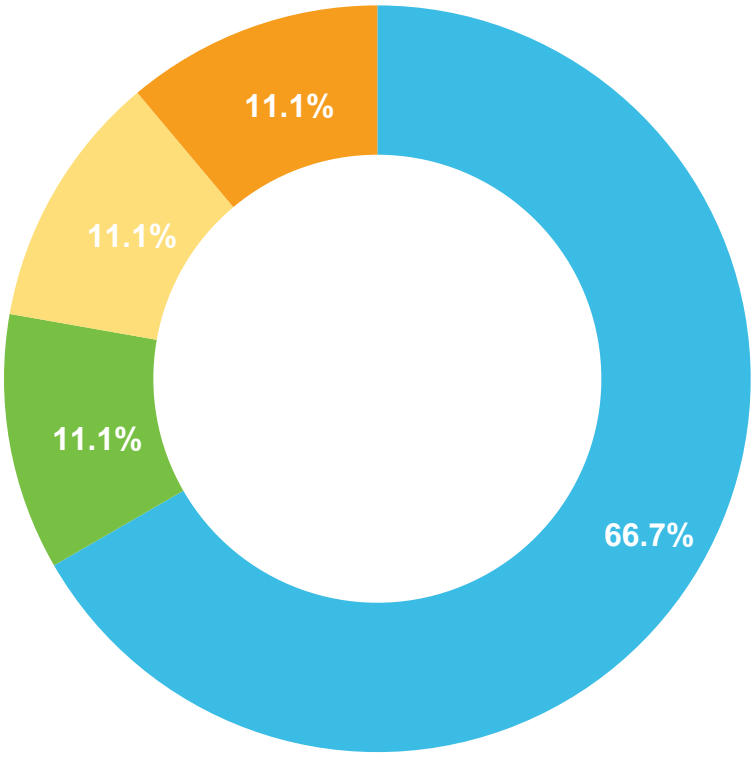
Choice	Total
Yes	9
No	0

Q17

Do you plan to incorporate Alpaca compatibility for your device?*

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

MULTIPLE CHOICE



Answered
9

Unanswered
1

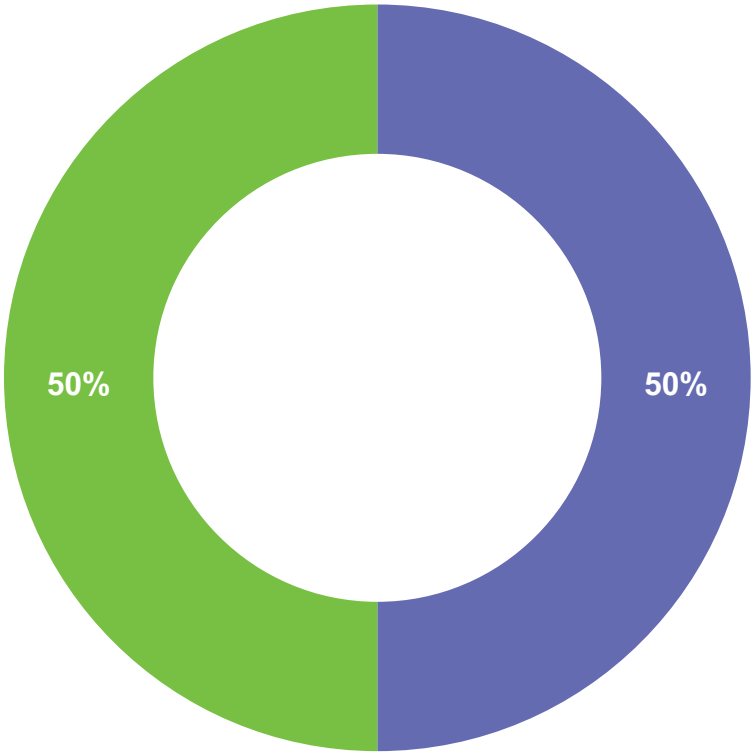
Choice	Total
I have already done this	0
Yes	6
Yes, if I create a driver for Mac or Linux	1

I'm not sure	1
No	1

Q18

Do you plan to create a self-contained (WiFi/Ethernet) version of your device?

MULTIPLE CHOICE



Answered
8

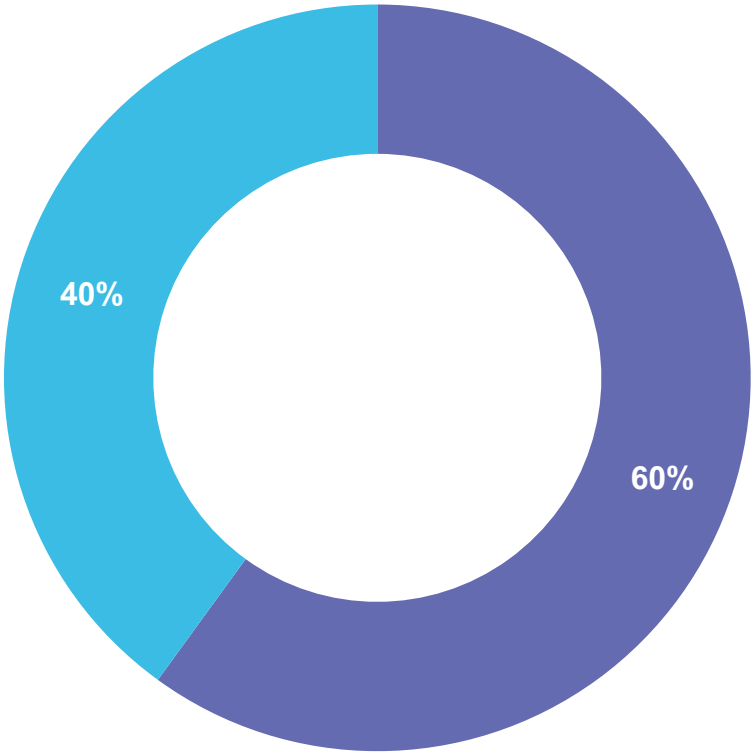
Unanswered
2

Choice	Total
Yes, soon	4
Yes, in the future	0
Probably not	4

Q19

Do you plan to use Alpaca as the protocol for your self-contained device?*

MULTIPLE CHOICE



Answered **5**

Unanswered **5**

Choice	Total
Yes	3
Possibly	2
No	0

Q20

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 .

May 22, 2019 2:36 PM

The PMC-Eight system ASCOM driver already supports WiFi IP Network connectivity. I integrated this into the PMC-Eight driver. I think it is important to provide support for the legacy API going forward to minimize the work that the manufacturer's need to do going forward.