The combination of the one square degree field and small aperture works well to provide good coverage of the reference star density and brightness from the Hipparcos and Tycho–2 catalogs. Longer exposures (200 seconds) of areas around ICRS sources will be used with data taken with larger telescopes to directly link the UCAC positions to the International Celestial Reference Frame (ICRF).

UCAC Observing	
preliminary reductions	Tycho–2
global adjustment	Hipparcos
2–fold overlap	each star on two fields
Two exposures/field	
25 seconds exp	8.0–14.5 mag
125 seconds exp	10.0–16.0 mag
observing rate	≈200 frames (100 fields) per night
rejection rate	≈10% of the frames

A preliminary catalog, UCAC1, of over 27 million Southern Hemisphere stars was released in early 2000 using the Tycho-2, AC200, USNO A2.0, and other catalogs for the determination of the proper motions.