

NORDIC OPTICAL TELESCOPE



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

PERIOD 50: OCTOBER 1, 2014 – APRIL 1, 2015

The Nordic Optical Telescope (NOT) invites applications for observing time in Period 50, October 1, 2014 – April 1, 2015. The deadline for receipt of the applications is:

Friday, May 16, 2014, at UT 12.00 noon

Important Announcements:

As stipulated by the Associates that form the NOT Scientific Association, a contribution to the operations of the telescope will be required from the Nordic users. The precisely way in which this will be implemented in the future is being discussed, and likely will be depending on the kind of proposal and the type of the observations requested, but the specific details will be announced as part of the corresponding Call for Proposals.

In accordance with the new NOTSA Agreement, the share of observing time for each Nordic Country is proportional to the contributions from the Associates. As (national) demand on observing time will vary from semester-to-semester and year-to-year, no strict national shares will be set per observing semester and all proposals submitted to NOT will still be ranked on the basis of scientific merit by the Observing Programmes Committee. However, the national shares will be considered when allocating observing time.

In order to spearhead the coordinated use of Europe's 2-4m telescopes, the Telescopio Nazionale Galileo (TNG) and NOT telescopes on La Palma have agreed to enter into a closer collaboration and will continue to jointly offer time at both telescopes to both communities in the next semester. See further details at <http://www.tng-not.iac.es/>. Accordingly, Nordic scientists can submit normal observing proposals directly to the TNG, and vice versa, but prior coordination between similar proposals from the two communities is encouraged in order to optimise the scientific returns of the available observing time. However, in particular with respect to Target-of-Opportunity programs, the different rules applying to observing time at the TNG and the NOT will be taken in to consideration.

Following the Agreement between the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC) and NOTSA for the continued operation of the NOT at the Roque de los Muchachos observatory on La Palma, 5% of the observing time at NOT will be offered for joint IAC-Nordic research programmes. This observing time is aimed at reinforcing the collaboration and synergies between the IAC and the Nordic communities through joint programmes. A separate call for proposals will be issued soon.

Note: Late applications are not accepted. However, proposals for short programmes (≤ 4 hours) using fixed instrument setups are welcome at any time (see <http://www.not.iac.es/observing/service/>).

Applicants should carefully read the following instructions:

- 1: Proposals for projects of all sizes are welcome, large and small as well as medium-size. Pooling of related and synergistic proposals by consortia of groups with similar interests is encouraged.

Programmes requiring one or more single-night periods may be executed in service mode on pre-assigned nights. Proposals should state whether service or visitor mode is desirable.

Applicants planning to propose Target-of-Opportunity or similar projects should contact the director (director@not.iac.es) in advance in order to discuss optimum strategies.

- 2: The proposal submission procedure is electronic. The Latex template and style files **for Period 50** are available at the NOT web site: <http://www.not.iac.es/observing/proposals/>. Detailed instructions are provided in the template file itself and a README file; they should be followed carefully. Applicants should *process and view the output of their files before submission* in order to check that they process properly. Proposals using modified style files will not be accepted.

Proposals requesting more than one observing run in the period (using different instruments on a project counts as separate runs) should specify them individually in the proposal as indicated.

- 3: Proposals should be submitted by e-mail before the above deadline to: proposal@not.iac.es, with the word "Proposal" both as Subject and as text. Automatic e-mail acknowledgement of receipt, with notification of any problems encountered in processing, is provided. Before the deadline, questions on proposal preparations or procedures may be sent to the same address with "Question" as the Subject.

- 4: Up-to-date information on instruments at NOT is found at <http://www.not.iac.es/instruments/>. Please note the following features for Period 50:

- We expect that a high-precision polarimeter for FIES will be available in period 50.

- 5: Proposals are reviewed without regard to the nationality of the applicant(s), but eligible non-Nordic proposals should be submitted via the OPTICON programme if possible (see below), and the total time allocated to 'foreign' projects, including OPTICON time, will be limited to $\sim 15\%$ of the Nordic time. This limit does not apply to Italian projects submitted under the joint call described above.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their proposal as soon as possible after the evaluation by the NOT Observing Programmes Committee and preparation of the observing schedule by the Director. Brief explanatory notes are provided to proposers, especially for rejected proposals. Note also that only 75% of the science time can be scheduled by NOTSA; the rest is Spanish time. Awards of observing time do not imply any other financial support from NOT.

- 6: The **OPTICON Trans-National Access Programme** provides access for external users to NOT and several other European telescopes with support from the European Union. **NB:** Proposals for OPTICON time are submitted and reviewed separately *two months before* the normal NOT proposals, and all eligible non-Nordic applicants should follow the OPTICON procedure. See <http://www.astro-opticon.org/fp7/tna/> for the next deadline and all details on this programme.

April 16, 2014

T. Augusteijn
Director, NOTSA