

NORDIC OPTICAL TELESCOPE



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

PERIOD 55: APRIL 1, 2017 – OCTOBER 1, 2017

The Nordic Optical Telescope (NOT) invites applications for observing time in Period 55, April 1, 2017 – October 1, 2017. The deadline for receipt of the applications is:

Friday, November 18, 2016, at UT 12.00 noon

The applicants are reminded of the following:

- ◆ In return for a contribution by the Instrument Centre for Danish Astrophysics in support of work on the NOT Transient Explorer (NTE) instrument, up to **8 extra nights** of observing time are offered to *proposals from researchers affiliated with Danish institutions*.
- ◆ As decided by the NOTSA Council, the share of observing time for each Nordic Country is to be proportional to the contributions from the Associates. **Regular visitor mode observing is the basic mode provided to researchers affiliated with a Nordic institution, and does not require any user contribution.** For any services requested beyond basic access, a contribution to the operational cost will be required. The detailed rules for the allocation of observing time and the related user contributions can be found at

<http://www.not.iac.es/observing/rules/ObservingTimeAndContributions.pdf>

- ◆ A system of Large Observing Proposals has been introduced, where researchers or research groups can apply for observing time for multi-semester programs. A separate proposal form has been prepared for Large proposals. The form can be downloaded together with the regular proposal form. The proposal submission is the same for both regular and Large proposals. The detailed rules applicable to these Large Proposals can be found at

<http://www.not.iac.es/observing/largeproposals/LargeProposalsRules.pdf>

- ◆ Late applications are not accepted. However, proposals for short programmes (≤ 4 hours) using fixed instrument set-ups are welcome at any time (see <http://www.not.iac.es/observing/service/>). **The Fast-Track programme is a service that is provided free of cost to researchers affiliated with a Nordic institution.** It also incorporates a system to compensate regular observing programs for time lost due to interruptions by observations for ToO or Monitoring programmes.
- ◆ 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.

In relation to the call for proposals at the TNG, the following:

- The **deadline** for receipt of applications is **Wednesday, November 30, 2016, at UT 12:00 noon**.
- The near-IR high-resolution Echelle spectrograph **GIANO** will be available again from the start of the new semester. To cater to the specific interest in using GIANO by the Nordic community, up to **4 extra nights** may be allocated in the coming semester to **Nordic proposals** requesting this instrument. There is now also the option to use GIANO simultaneously with the optical high-resolution Echelle spectrograph HARPS-N.
- The TNG is looking to change their proposal allocation procedure, and likely as of the next call for proposals in 6 months time, proposals for observing time will be reviewed on an annual basis.

NB: *As for the allocation of observing time, user contributions, and travel support, the national rules applicable to the Principle Investigator of a proposal are followed.*

- ◆ 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.

Applicants should carefully read the following instructions:

- 1: Proposals are reviewed without regard to the nationality of the applicant(s). Non-Nordic proposals should be submitted via the OPTICON programme if possible (see below), and the total time allocated to 'foreign' projects will be limited to ~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 (20%), or IAC-Nordic time (5%). Awards of observing time do not imply any financial support from NOT.

- 2: 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.

Visitor mode observing is the basic mode provided. Programmes requiring service mode observing, or propose a Monitoring, Target-of-Opportunity (ToO) or similar project, should so indicate this in the proposal. In principle, compensation is provided in service mode for any observing time affected by Monitoring or ToO observations.

Applicants having particular, or complex scheduling requirements should contact the director (director@not.iac.es) in advance in order to discuss optimum strategies.

- 3: The proposal submission procedure is electronic. The Latex template and style files for both regular and Large proposals **for Period 55** are available at the NOT web site: <http://www.not.iac.es/observing/proposals/>. Detailed instructions are provided in the template files themselves and in 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 a period (using different instruments on a project counts as separate runs) should specify them individually in the proposal as indicated.

- 4: Regular and Large 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.
- 5: Up-to-date information on instruments at NOT is found at <http://www.not.iac.es/instruments/>. Please note the following features for Period 55:
- New (e2v CCD231-42) detectors have been installed in ALFOSC and FIES. The CCDs are deep depletion devices, with low-fringing and high efficiency in the red.
 - Together with our set of VPH grisms, the detector provides an overall efficiency for ALFOSC which rivals that of similar instrument set-ups on 4-m class telescopes.
 - The new CCDs are about 10% larger than the previous ones. For FIES, this allows to sample further into the infrared part of the echellogram, and we now reach from 3700 to 9100 Ångstrom for the high-resolution fiber (F4), while for the other fibers we sample a few hundreds of Ångstroms less into the infrared. For the previous CCD the sampled range was 3700-7300 Ångstrom.
 - A new fibre bundle is planned to be installed in FIES before the start of semester P55. With this new bundle, we expect the radial-velocity stability with the high-resolution fiber to improve from 8-10 m/s to ~3 m/s.
 - The SOFIN high-resolution Echelle spectrograph is again available. It offers a resolution of $R=27000-170000$, and it also offers spectropolarimetry. SOFIN is not a common-user instrument: only limited support is provided.
- 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/fp7-2/tna/> for the next deadline and all details on this programme.

October 20, 2016

T. Augusteijn
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