

# NORDIC OPTICAL TELESCOPE



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**PERIOD 60: OCTOBER 1, 2019 – APRIL 1, 2020**

The Nordic Optical Telescope (NOT) invites applications for observing time in Period 60, October 1, 2019 – April 1, 2020. The deadline for receipt of the applications is:

**Monday, May 20, 2019, at UT 12.00 noon**

### Important notice

As you may know, an agreement was signed on April 1, 2019, to transfer the NOT and its operations to Aarhus University (AU), Denmark, and the University of Turku (UTU), Finland. The transfer will be fully effective as per October 1, 2019.

The new organization for operating the telescope is a research collaboration between partners primarily in the Nordic countries. AU and UTU are looking forward to be the hosts for the new organisation with the aim of operating the NOT to provide access to high quality scientific instrumentation. The telescope will continue to operate in a way similar to how it has operated in the past and also the new organisation will offer access to the telescope for astronomers in Denmark, Finland and Norway as well as astronomers from Stockholm and Reykjavik Universities - the partners in the new organisation. AU and UTU will together with all other partners work on ensuring a smooth transition and we are looking forward to a successful continued operation of the NOT in many years to come.

The Swedish Research Council will no longer fund operations of the NOT from next year onward, and access to observing time will be limited for astronomers from Sweden. This does not apply to astronomers from Stockholm University.

### The applicants are reminded of the following:

- ◆ As maintained in the new organisation, the share of observing time for applicants will be proportional to the contributions from the different Partners. ***Regular visitor mode observing is the basic mode provided to researchers affiliated with the Partner institutions, 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 ( $\leq 4$  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 astronomers 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 mirrors of the TNG are scheduled to be aluminised during the whole month of October 2019, and only 5 months are available during the present call. The number of nights available to Nordic astronomers on the TNG is reduced accordingly.
- We strongly encourage the submission of joint '**Italo-Nordic**' proposals using both telescopes.

**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  $\sim 15\%$  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 (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](mailto: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 60** 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](mailto: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 60:

- A new fibre bundle, using octagonal fiber, was installed in FIES. This bundle improves the radial-velocity stability. Tests have shown the stability with the high-resolution fiber to be  $\sim 2$  m/s on time-scales of a day, and below  $\sim 4$  m/s on longer time-scales. Test with the medium-resolution fiber have shown its stability to be similar to that of the high-resolution fiber.
- We acquired two holographic diffusers to do high-precision photometry. These diffusers effectively scrambled the incoming light, providing a more constant and optimal ('top-head') shape, with minimal light loss, significantly reducing any systematic effects in the photometry. The diffusers provides a very stable stellar image with a width ( $\sim$ FWHM) of between 5 and 8 arcsec. See for more details <http://www.not.iac.es/instruments/alfosc/diffuser.html>.
- The SOFIN high-resolution Echelle spectrograph is again available. It only is offered to do circular spectro-polarimetry with the medium-resolution ( $R \sim 80,000$ ) camera. 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/h2020/tna/call/index.html> for the next deadline and all details on this programme.

April 19, 2019

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