



ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY FOR OBSERVING TIME AT THE GRAN TELESCOPIO CANARIAS



SEMESTER 2009B: SEPTEMBER 1st 2009 - February 28th 2010

Submission deadline: **3 April 2009**

The GTC Project Office announces the second regular call for observing time proposals for the 10.4-m Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC), open to the GTC user community. This second semester of regular science operation for the GTC, Semester 2009B, will run from September 1st 2009 until February 28th 2010. In this early phase of telescope operation there will be a number of operational restrictions that are detailed below.

All interested applicants must use the IAC's CAT on-line system for submitting their proposals. This can be found at <http://cat.iac.es/> where also instructions are provided. The deadline for submission is 3 April 2009. Proposals that are granted time by the respective time allocation committees will be asked to provide detailed observing information as the second phase of the submission process.

1. Available observing time

During semester 2009B scientific operation of the telescope will occupy the majority of the available observing time, but still a significant fraction (some 25%) is expected to be required for ongoing telescope and instrument commissioning work that will be carried out during bright time when possible.

During this semester GTC will accept target-of-opportunity override proposals.

2. Instrumentation

The OSIRIS spectrograph and imager for the optical wavelength range will be available in the Nasmyth-B focal station. Observing modes that will be offered are:

- Broad-band imaging (including fast photometry mode)
- Tunable filter imaging using the "red" tunable filter only (including charge shuffling mode)
- Single, long-slit spectroscopy
- Multi-slit spectroscopy

Details of the instrument can be found at <http://www.gtc.iac.es/pages/instrumentacion.php>, including the observing programs for guaranteed time and its reserved targets

We regret to announce that commissioning of the CanariCam mid-IR imager and spectrograph will have to be delayed until well into the semester, which implies that the instrument cannot be offered for use to the community in this round. However, the probability is high that the instrument will be available for semester 2010A.

Visiting instruments will not be supported during this semester.

3. Telescope Support Model

During this semester of operation of the GTC all observations will be carried out in queue-scheduled service mode by trained observatory personnel. This will allow flexibility in optimizing the

science return of the telescope as function of the atmospheric and technical circumstances each night. It should be noted that proposals with relaxed observing constraints will have a better chance of being completed successfully.

The GTC team, once having discussed the second phase of the submission process with the applicants, could invite the applicant team to attend the observing run if considered the most convenient way to perform successfully the proposed observing program.

For general queries contact René Rutten: rene.rutten@gtc.iac.es



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