



# ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY FOR OBSERVING TIME AT THE GRAN TELESCOPIO CANARIAS



**SEMESTER 2010B: September 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 – February 28<sup>th</sup> 2011**

Submission deadline: **31 March 2010**

GRANTECAN announces a call for observing proposals for Semester 2010B on the 10.4-m Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC), open to the GTC user community. This fourth semester of regular science operation for the GTC runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 until February 28<sup>th</sup> 2011.

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 31 March 2010 at 5pm local time in the Canary Islands. Proposals that are granted time by the respective time allocation committees will be asked to provide detailed observing information in the second phase of the submission process. For a more extensive description of how the observing process at GTC is organized please refer to <http://www.gtc.iac.es/en/pages/observing-with-gtc.php>

## 1. Available observing time

During semester 2010B scientific operation of the telescope will occupy the majority of the available observing time, but still a significant fraction (some 15%) is expected to be required for ongoing telescope and instrument commissioning work that will preferentially be carried out during bright time. The remaining 85% will be dedicated to programs that are granted time under this call, as well as guaranteed time for instrument builders, time for ESO-GTC programs, and for the CCI International Time.

GTC will accept target-of-opportunity override proposals.

## 2. Instrumentation

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

Visiting instruments will not be supported during this semester.

### OSIRIS:

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

### CanariCam:

This instrument, located in the Nasmyth-A focus, allows imaging and spectroscopy in the mid-IR wavelength range. At the time of writing CanariCam has not been fully commissioned yet. This is planned to take place during semester 2010A. Consequently, the performance characteristics of CanariCam+GTC are not yet established.

Given the large interest of the GTC user community in the fast deployment and use of CanariCam we will accept observing proposals for the instrument modes of imaging, spectroscopy, and imaging polarimetry, assuming the risk of applying for an instrument that has not yet been commissioned.

We cannot guarantee that the instrument will be available in time for the start of the semester (although most likely it will be ready), nor its exact performance characteristics.

We note here that the science teams of OSIRIS and CanariCam obtain guaranteed observing time. The objects and observing modes planned for their observations are reserved for the sole use by the instrument science teams. Target lists of reserved objects may be found on the instrument web pages.

### **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.

PIs are welcome to attend the observations, although due to the dynamic nature of the scheduling process GTC cannot guarantee that a certain program will be executed on a specific night. The GTC team, once having discussed the second phase of the submission process with the applicants, may 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](mailto:rene.rutten@gtc.iac.es)