

2020-2021 NIGHT-TIME CCI International Time Programme

NB: The deadline for the call for proposals for the semesters 2020B-2021A is midnight, February 29, 2020.

The International Scientific Committee (CCI) of the Observatorios de Canarias (Roque de los Muchachos - ORM, La Palma and Teide - OT, Tenerife) invites applications for the International Time Programme (ITP) on the telescopes installed at these Observatories.

The ITP offers up to 5% of the observing time, evenly spread throughout the year and the lunar cycle, at the telescopes listed below. A proposal can request up to 15 nights/year of observing time on each of the following telescopes: TNG (3.58m), NOT (2.56m), INT (2.54m), MERCATOR (1.2m) and 80 hours on the GTC (10m), LT (2m) & STELLA (2x1.2m). A proposal can cover a period of up to two consecutive years (4 semesters). Proposals must include a justification of the time requested on each telescope. The **Application Form** can be requested from: cci@iac.es

Specific guidelines for the individual telescope facilities are available on their webs. However, the PI needs to contact the corresponding telescope staff before writing their proposal to discuss which instruments will be available and also contact the corresponding telescope operator for an initial technical appraisal on the feasibility of their proposed observations before submitting their application.

The aim of the ITP is to encourage international scientific projects of the highest quality, which cannot be easily accommodated within other time allocation schemes and which foster collaboration between the different user institutions at the observatories. Proposals should be international in their range of participants and are expected to involve astronomers from at least three of the seven European countries that are signatories to the Agreements for Cooperation in Astrophysics¹. Moreover, astronomers from scientific institutions from any other country in the world can be included. The PI should ensure in advance that those astronomers participating in observing runs will have access to travel and subsistence funds, as this is not provided by the CCI or OPTICON.

The observing programmes should concentrate on a single astronomical investigation. Proposals that would benefit from the use of more than one facility, and in particular those which would be unlikely to obtain the necessary large amount of observing time through the usual time allocation panels because of the difficulty to coordinate several telescopes, are especially encouraged. Hence, a typical ITP program is a large or a small international program that involves a complementary use of different telescope facilities, with a clear case why the total is more than the sum of the parts. Scientific excellence is a prime consideration. Each proposal will be assessed scientifically by the respective TACs, independent experts selected by the CCI's Scientific Adviser and by the members of the CCI, which reserves the right not to make an award on one or more telescopes if the quality of the proposals is not adequate to justify their use. The CCI may award time to one or more projects.

¹ Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain & the UK.

Proposers should be aware that, according to the international agreements, once a project is selected, any Spanish institution shall have the right to join the programme if it wishes and has the approval of the IAC. Proposals awarded time by the national committees have priority over those receiving an ITP award.

Successful applicants should send annual brief progress reports to the CCI (cci@iac.es). On completion of the programme, and not later than one year after the final period of observing time, a full report should be submitted to the CCI for publication in its Annual Report and the acquired data products should be made publically available. The following acknowledgement should be included when publishing results that include data obtained under this program:

“Data for this [programme/paper] has been obtained under the International Time Programme of the CCI (International Scientific Committee of the Observatorios de Canarias of the IAC) with the [telescope/s] operated on the island/s of Tenerife/La Palma by the [operator/s] in the Observatorio del Teide/Roque de los Muchachos.”

Practical boundary conditions:

Proposers must bear in mind that specific instrumentation may not be available at all times (for the present call limited instrument availability may affect the GTC & TNG) and that the CCI does not schedule the observing time as this is done by the corresponding technical committees of each telescope or group of telescopes. Therefore, the PI should check on the availability of instruments and the feasibility of scheduling requirements, or coordinated observations at various telescopes (such as large scale monitoring projects that require a fraction of many nights) before completing and submitting a proposal.

Proposals are considered on an annual cycle. The closing date for submission of proposals to each ITP is always the last day of February of each year for projects starting from the second semester of the same year. The **Application Form** can be requested from: cci@iac.es and will require the following information:

- a. Title; list of applicants and their affiliations.
- b. An informative summary, not exceeding one side of A4.
- c. A science case including:
 - Relevant background.
 - Motivation for programme.
 - What the programme can achieve.
- d. A table specifying the time requested per telescope and the observing mode/s.
- e. A description of the desired observations (including a target list), assessment of feasibility (technical case) and the justification of the amount of observing time per telescope.
- f. A project management plan, which includes how the work will be shared among the CoIs.
- g. A commentary on the use made of earlier ITP time awarded to any of the applicants (only if ITP has been granted previously).
- h. References.

The page limit for each section is indicated on the Form; any information beyond this limit will be excluded. Proposals must be saved as a pdf file and returned by e-mail to: cci@iac.es The CCI Secretary will confirm its safe reception and indicate the corresponding Proposal Number.