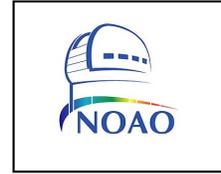


ANNOUNCEMENT of OPPORTUNITY for PARTNERSHIPS AT NOAO



The NOAO Long Range Plan envisions that by 2010, NSF-provided core funding to the national observatory will be focused on support of major new projects, including the Thirty Meter Telescope and the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope. Following the NSF's Senior Review www.noao.edu/dir/seniorreview, we anticipate that more of the financial support for observing facilities at Kitt Peak National Observatory (KPNO) and Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory (CTIO) will originate from other sources.

We are interested in partners that will bring cash to the support needs of the observatory and will use the resulting observing time for their research and educational activities. While negotiable, our current estimate of a minimum share would be 1/8th of the available time over a three-year period on either or both the 2.1-m or 4-m telescopes. Proposers should submit a science plan and a management plan in response to this AO by November 1, 2005. Proposers intending to contribute in addition to instrument development should provide a technical plan.

At KPNO, shares of observing time on the 2.1-m and Mayall 4-m telescopes are available. We are looking to start the lease time on the 2.1-meter and 4-meter as soon as possible, which would at the earliest be the start of semester 2006A in February 2006. Partners in the 4-m or 2.1-m may indicate how they might trade some of their time for observing on other NOAO telescopes.

For more information on Kitt Peak opportunities, please contact Richard Green (rgreen@noao.edu) or Buell Jannuzi (bjannuzi@noao.edu).

A partnership for up to 10 percent of the CTIO Blanco 4-m is also available. Time exchanges with other NOAO facilities, including the SOAR 4-m, are possible in principle.

Separately from this AO, the Dark Energy Camera Consortium for the Blanco 4-m continues to look for partners with funding resources. This Fermilab-led consortium, with project director John Peoples (peop@fnal.gov), aims to build a very large (2-degree diameter field) CCD imager and new corrector for the Blanco prime focus. The instrument is scheduled to start the Dark Energy Survey in 2009. See <http://www.ctio.noao.edu/telescopes/dec.html> for more on this "super-Sloan survey." The consortium presently consists of Fermilab, the University of Illinois, the University of Chicago, Berkeley/LBNL, Michigan, UCL, and Barcelona high energy physics institutes. This is a \$20M project, and partners will need to bring science synergy or be able to use the survey data for another purpose.

For more information on any of the CTIO opportunities, please contact Alistair Walker (awalker@noao.edu).

Any partnership arrangements are subject to the agreement of the National Science Foundation.

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