



Direzione Scientifica

Roma, 04 sept 2015

Call for Letters of Intent for VST-GTO 2016-2021

Dear colleagues,

at the end of September 2015 the first four years of VST operations will be successfully completed. They coincide with the period when the INAF community has benefited of 10% of the guaranteed telescope time (of VST-GTO in short). This fraction will grow to 15% over the next two years, bringing the total budget to about 45 nights per year, and get to 20% for the next other four years (about 60 nights per year).

In this first four years of operations the VST has provided GTO data to eight surveys. They were scientifically aimed at studying major aspects related to the structure and formation of the Milky Way and its satellites (e.g. the Small Magellanic Cloud and the objects around the Fornax stream), the formation and structure of galaxies in the Local Group and nearby clusters (Virgo and Fornax), up to the Shapley supercluster. They also explored regions of deep space to look for new supernovae and study the formation of galaxies up to redshift around $z = 1$.

In order to plan the use of the telescope in the next five years (from 2016 on) in the context of the science programs with Italian leadership, and to consolidate the role of the VST as world-class survey facility, **INAF is launching a new call for Letters of Intent (LoI) for Large programs** (min. of 40 nights up to about 100 nights). Larger programs can be taken under consideration if exceptionally relevant and if exploiting critical synergies with other current or future facilities.

LoIs have to be submitted to the Direzione Scientifica INAF (dir.scient@inaf.it), cc to the VSTceN (capaccioli@na.infn.it), and have to include:

1. P.I. and project title;
2. Preliminary team-composition;
3. Science rationale (1 page max);
4. International context (1 page max);
5. Synergies with other observational facilities (1 page max);
6. Observational constraints, total observing time required, and justification;
7. Preliminary list of target and/or RA/DEC distribution;
8. Data reduction/analysis facilities available or to be acquired (1 page max).

Deadline for the submission is 30 October 2015.



Projects will be ranked by a committee of experts right after the above deadline. Details on the proposed projects might be required by the committee as written report or interview.

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