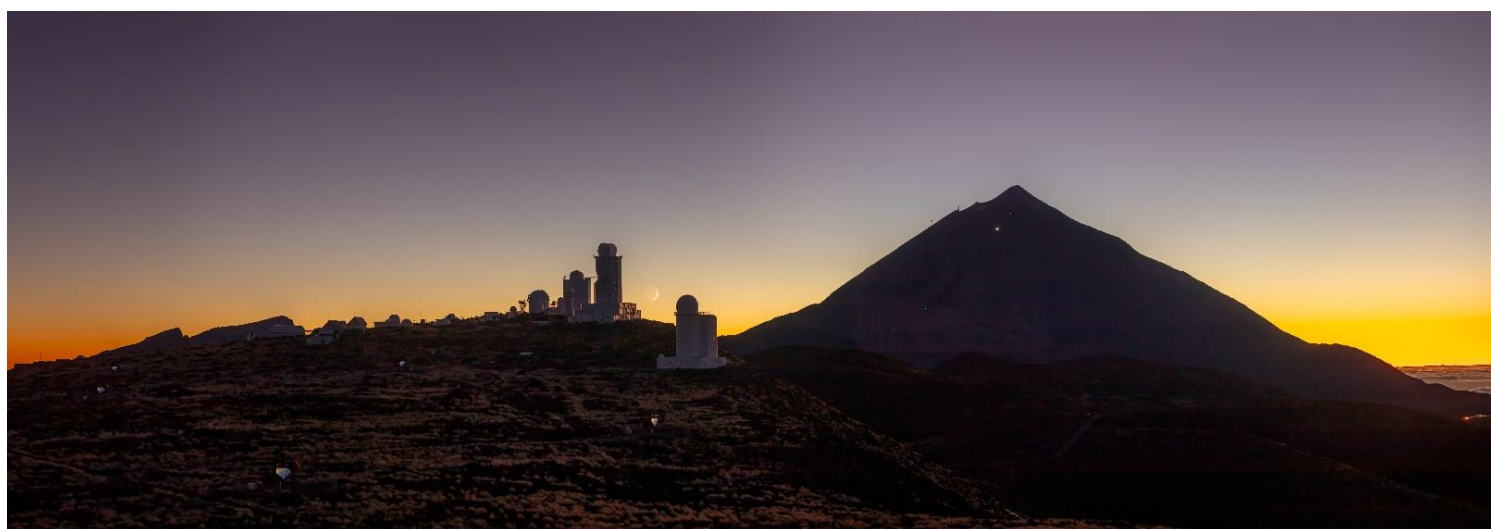




CAT 2027A

Standard Call for proposals



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STANDARD CALL FOR PROPOSALS - SEMESTER 2027A

Submissions are invited for Spanish Night Time CAT proposals in semester 2027A on GTC, TNG, WHT, INT, NOT, STELLA, LT, TCS, TTT, and Mercator, with deadline **Friday, 2 October 2026, at 12 noon WEST (1pm CEST, 11.00am UT)**.

The call for collaborative Spanish–University of Florida (UF) proposals at the GTC (Spanish/UF Time, see below) is also open with the same deadline.

The start and end dates of each A and B semester depend on the telescope, see Table 1 and <https://research.iac.es/OOCC/night-cat/>

Prior to writing proposals, applicants are required to get familiar with the information contained or linked/referred to in this Call for Proposals.

Standard Call Proposals for Spanish Night Time should be submitted via <https://proposals.iac.es/> (see also section “How to submit”).

Requests for technical support on the proposal submission service should be directed at helpdesk-cat@iac.es

The Presidency and vice-Presidency of the Spanish Night CAT can be reached at catiac@iac.es

Table 1: Overview of the months covered in semester A and B at the different telescopes offered in this call.

SEMESTER	TELESCOPE	PERIOD
A	Liverpool*, TTT*	January – August*
	INT, STELLA, TCS	February – July
	GTC	March – August
	NOT, TNG, Mercator	April – September
	WHT	May – October
B	Liverpool*, TTT*	July – February*
	INT, STELLA, TCS	August – January
	GTC	September – February
	NOT, TNG, Mercator	October – March
	WHT	November – April

**A two month overlap period is adopted at the start and end of each period, when proposals from both semesters may be observed, in order to reduce problems with under-filled observation queues.*

GENERAL

Who can apply

Each proposal submitted under the Spanish Night CAT scheme must be led by a Principal Investigator (PI) affiliated with a research institution based in Spain. As the scientific lead of the programme, the PI must have the expertise and capacity required to carry out the proposed research. Collaborators (co-Is) may be affiliated with institutions worldwide. For proposals with equal scientific merit, priority will be given to those with (1) a higher proportion of co-Is from Spanish institutions, and (2) a higher number of distinct Spanish institutions involved.

GTC Spanish/UF proposals can have either a Spanish or UF PI, and must include co-Is from both communities.

Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated at the Spanish Night CAT meeting following the proposal submission deadline (in November for A semesters, in May for B semesters). Based on scientific assessment, the CAT will provide a recommendation to the IAC Directorate, which is responsible for making the final decision on proposal approval. Recommendations will then be sent to the Directors of the various observatories and telescopes by the end of the month following the CAT meeting.

The CAT will be instructed to evaluate proposals as they have been submitted, based on scientific merit and the ability of the team, under the leadership of the PI, to successfully achieve the programme's stated objectives. No variation of the amount of requested time, target list, instruments, observing mode or observing constraints will be recommended by the CAT (e.g. Large Programs will either be granted time as Large Programs or not approved). Note, however, that the final allocation of the programme is subject to scheduling constraints at the telescope.

How to submit

Starting from 2026B, proposals must be submitted via the new proposal submission service at <https://proposals.iac.es>. The proposal submissions for 2027A should use the interface "2027A Regular CAT call" under "Night Time Calls"

Requests for technical support on the proposal submission service should be directed at helpdesk-cat@iac.es

Please note that **both PIs and Co-Is need to be registered** and keep their information (e.g. affiliation, email address) always up-to-date; only one user profile per person should be created. It is advisable to proceed to registration and proposal preparation well in advance of the proposal submission deadline. At the time of registration, the user will receive an automatic notification by email asking to confirm their email address; until that step is completed, the registration will not be successful.

A set of **keywords** needs to be indicated both in the user profile of PIs and Co-Is and at the proposal level. Proposal keywords will inform the assignment of proposals to the evaluation panels and to the main proposal reviewers; user keywords will be used to build a data-base of expertise in the community.

All proposals must be written in **English**.

Applicants should request total telescope time, including both on-source exposure time and overheads. In case of doubt about overheads, applicants are strongly encouraged to get in touch with personnel at the telescope ahead of the proposal submission. The assessment performed by the evaluation panels will be based on the information presented in the proposal. Incorrect total telescope time requests might result in rejections.

ToO, Large Programmes, Long Term Programmes, Fillers, (and Service proposals for TNG and NOT) should be identified as such in the proposal submission form.

It is possible to request time on multiple facilities (telescopes and/or instruments). Proposals requesting runs with different facilities should include a clear explanation of what scientific objectives can be reached with each facility and how they are impacted in case not all runs are granted.

The use of **Artificial Intelligence** during proposal preparation is permitted for language editing, formatting and data visualization, but prohibited for generating core intellectual content. Human accountability is required for all parts of the submitted proposal.

Target change requests: Targets included in Phase 2 for queue/service observations and visitor-mode runs should correspond to those originally proposed at the time of proposal submission. Only in exceptional and duly justified cases may target changes be considered. Such requests must be submitted to catiac@iac.es no later than two weeks before the Phase 2 deadline or the dates of the scheduled visitor runs.

Publications using data from Spanish Night CAT programmes should include the proposal ID either in the acknowledgements or in the main text.

NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2027A

Shut down of previous proposal submission service

The previous submission service (<http://cat.iac.es>) will remain available until the end of September 2026, but only to allow users to view and download their past proposals. **A shut down of the system will follow in October 2026.**

Large Programmes and Long-Term programmes

The characteristics of Large Programmes versus Long-Term programmes are detailed in the respective sections.

Monitoring programmes at GTC

From S27A, GTC accepts monitoring programmes, but only when these are allocated as A-ranked proposals.

Monitoring programmes are programmes that need repeated observations of the same source(s)/field(s) with specific (fixed or variable) time cadences with respect to each other (example of variable time cadence: 2nd epoch to be taken N-days after the 1st epoch, 3rd epoch after M-days from the 2nd etc), but do not necessarily need the first epoch to be taken within specific absolute time windows (dates).

On the other hand, a Time Critical programme is a programme that needs the observations to be taken within specific absolute time windows (dates).

A given programme can be both Time Critical and Monitoring. If the observations span multiple semesters, then it should also be flagged either as Long-Term Programme or Large Programme, depending on its specific characteristics.

Spanish Service Nights at TNG and NOT: short regular proposals and Fast Track

Starting from 2026B it is possible to submit regular CAT proposals requesting less than 4h per night on TNG and NOT. At the time of submission, these proposals must be **identified as "Service" in the section "Observing mode" of the proposal.**

These short proposals will only be scheduled during Spanish Service Nights and performed in service mode by support astronomers.

Each semester a maximum of one night per month at TNG and NOT is scheduled as Spanish Service Night. The number and dates (posted here <https://research.iac.es/OOCC/requesting-time/scheduled-service-ddt/>) for a given semester are established after the CAT meeting; however they are typically evenly spaced and distributed across bright, gray and dark time.

Spanish Service Nights can also be used for Fast Track programmes; conditions to be met to classify for the Fast Track scheme are given below at (1).

Table 2 summarizes the characteristics of the type of programmes that can be carried out during Spanish Service Nights at TNG and NOT and the routes to apply for time.

Table 2: Summary information for regular and Fast Track programmes on Spanish Service Nights at TNG and NOT

PROGRAMME TYPE	MAXIMUM TIME REQUEST	MODE	SUBMISSION TIME	SUBMISSION FORM	CHARACTERISTICS	VALIDITY
FAST TRACK	Up to the maximum of Spanish Service nights available in that semester	Service mode by support astronomers	Proposals can be submitted throughout the semester, but at least 3 weeks before scheduled Service Nights	proposals.iac.es “Spanish Service Time” under “Night Time Calls”	See (1)	Semester when the proposal is submitted
REGULAR	<= 4 hours per night. Up to the maximum of Spanish Service nights available in that semester.	Service mode by support astronomers	Semestral Regular Calls for Spanish Night Time	proposals.iac.es “Regular CAT call” under “Night Time Calls” Flag the proposal as “Service” in the section “Observing mode” of the proposal.	Normal programme that does not meet the conditions for Fast Track.	Semester when the proposal is submitted

(1) *Proposals suitable for the Fast Track scheme on TNG and NOT are those that respect these conditions:*

- * *unforeseen or urgent transitory phenomena;*
- * *a topic of particular impact or importance needing urgent action;*
- * *those with a high element of risk, but also having high impact if successful;*
- * *follow-up of previous observations, where urgent action might lead to a result of high impact or be of a decisive nature*
- * *to demonstrate the viability of a given program or type of observations*
- * *high impact programs initiated by the Director of the IAC*

INFORMATION FOR THE CURRENT SEMESTER

This section gives an overview of the telescopes and instruments offered in this semester, the programme types accepted (normal, large programmes, long term programmes, ToO) and their main characteristics. For further details, the proponents are strongly encouraged to read the GTC and ING call for proposals of the current semester and the webpages of the respective telescopes.

Telescopes and instruments offered

The table below gives an overview of the telescopes and instruments offered in this semester.

TELESCOPE	INSTRUMENTS	TIME OFFERED	MODE	COMMENTS
GTC	OSIRIS+ EMIR+ MEGARA HIPERCAM	559 hours	Mainly queue. It is allowed to apply for visitor-mode.	No back-up programme needed for visitor-mode proposals. In case of bad-weather, the time will be used for queue observations.
TNG	GIANO-B, NICS, DOLORES, HARPS-N, GIARPS	31 nights	Visitor	Service for proposals requesting < 4h per night. These can only be scheduled on Spanish Service Nights operated by IAC staff.
NOT	ALFOSC, FIES, NOTCam, StanCam	31 nights	Visitor	Service for proposals requesting < 4h per night. These can only be scheduled on Spanish Service Nights.
WHT	WEAVE	62h	Queue	LIFU mode. MOS/mIFU modes offered on a shared-risk basis.
INT			Queue	No time offered in 27A.
STELLA	WiFSIP, SES	120 hours, 180 hours	Queue	
Liverpool Telescope	IO:O, RISE, SPRAT, MOPTOP, LIRIC	150 hours (plus 50 hours backup time)	Queue	Potential camera change for IO:O in this semester, see notes below
TCS	MUSCAT2	About 90 nights	Visitor or Remote	Instrument FASTCAM is offered under request, on a shared risk basis.
TTT80	FERVOR-M	511 hours	Queue	
TTT200	FERVOR-M	255.5 hours	Queue	
Mercator	HERMES	29 nights	Visitor	

ToO proposals

The table below gives an overview of which telescopes accept Target-of-Opportunity (ToOs) proposals and the relevant conditions and constraints. For further details, applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the webpage of the various facilities and read the GTC and ING call for proposals, when relevant.

At the time of triggering the observations, the observing strategy must follow that described in the proposal approved by the Spanish Night CAT, and triggers must remain within the allocated time. During other Spanish observing runs, only Spanish Night CAT ToO overrides can be triggered. ToOs are not allowed to override time critical observations.

TELESCOPE	Accepts ToO?	Further information
GTC	Y	<p>ToO proposals are not accepted for Large Programmes (or as part of Large Programmes)</p> <p>ToO regular programs can request HiPERCAM observations without narrow-band filters and the diffuser.</p> <p>ToO proposals ranked in band C will not be approved.</p> <p>ToO proposals do not carry over to the next semester.</p> <p>ToO execution follows the TAC policy defined at https://vivaldi.ll.iac.es/OOCC/night-cat/cat-too-gtc/</p>
TNG	Y	
NOT	Y	ALFOSC spectro-polarimetry is not offered in ToO mode.
WHT	Y	<p>Only using WEAVE LIFU mode.</p> <p>Only Band A ToO programmes are likely to be attempted. ING anticipates executing at most one ToO trigger per night, on a first-come, first-served basis.</p> <p>At present, ING supports “next-day” triggers: triggers must be received by 12:00 UT on the preceding day. ING will attempt shorter-notice triggers on a best-effort basis.</p>
INT		
STELLA	Y	ToO can be done by the PI directly using a Java tool available on demand. It will directly insert observing blocks into the scheduling system on the site and will run immediately.
Liverpool Telescope	Y	All LT observation groups are selected by the LT robotic dispatch scheduler so there are no special requirements for ToO groups. Observation groups can be entered manually into the LT Phase II software or through a Python module provided by the LT team, so requests can be directly integrated into brokers or follow-up pipelines.
TCS	Y	ToO overrides cannot be triggered during MUSCAT2 team Guaranteed Time.
TTT80/TTT200	N	We plan to offer ‘override’ ToO observations when a strong science justification is provided. Interested PI contact TTT.
Mercator	N	

Large Programmes (LP)

Large programme (LP) proposals are **large-size projects which involve novel ideas, opportunities for great advance, or have a strong legacy value**. LPs must also meet the following requirements:

- Span between two and four semesters
- Provide a solid plan for an efficient data reduction, analysis and publication of the results, including availability of resources and team members expertise
- Be led by a Spanish institution and have a large fraction of the team – co-Is – affiliated to a Spanish institution.

Only LPs that rank at the top of their specific panels will be considered for approval and elevated for discussion at the meeting of the chairs and vice-chairs of all the CAT panels and of the President and vice-President of the CAT. During this meeting, the final decision will be taken on which LPs to recommend to the IAC Director.

Yearly progress reports are expected, and a final report to the CAT is due at the end of the project. The final high-level products should be publicly released in an appropriate format. Raw data from long-term programs will follow the same proprietary period as regular proposals.

The table below summarizes the facilities for which large programmes can be requested, along with the characteristics/restrictions specific to a given facility. For further details, the proponents are strongly encouraged to read the GTC and ING call for proposals and the webpages of the respective telescopes.

TELESCOPE	Accepts Large Programmes?	Characteristics
GTC	Y	<p>Minimum of 2 semesters and maximum of 4 semesters.</p> <p>Maximum time request per semester: 50 hours of the Spanish Night CAT observing time at the GTC in the present call.</p> <p>Minimum total time request: 100 hours</p> <p>A single instrument or a combination of the four instruments can be requested.</p> <p>Instruments offered: MEGARA (IFU mode), HiPERCAM, OSIRIS+ (imaging and longslit spectroscopy modes), EMIR+ (imaging and longslit spectroscopy modes). It is not allowed to request the use of diffuser/narrow band filters with HiPERCAM for GTC-LP.</p> <p>ToO proposals are not accepted for Large Programmes at GTC</p>
TNG	N	
NOT	Y	
WHT	N	Not currently
INT		
STELLA	Y	
Liverpool Telescope	Y	
TCS	Y	<p>Maximum time request: 45 nights/semester</p> <p>Minimum time request: 6 nights/semester</p> <p>Instruments offered: MUSCAT2</p>
TTT80/TTT200	Y	
Mercator	Y	

Long-Term Programmes (LTP)

Long-Term programmes (LTP) are different from Large Programmes, both in terms of time request and expected outcome. LTPs are programmes that require more than one and up to four semesters to achieve their scientific objectives (e.g. because of the characteristics of the targets, as in case of long-period sources), but do not involve large observing time requests.

In 2027A, proposals targeting samples with a broad distribution in R.A. are accepted in this category; the applicants should however demonstrate why and how the success of the programme critically depends on the observations of those targets and cannot be achieved within one semester.

Only LTPs that rank at the top of their specific panels will be considered for approval.

TELESCOPE	Accepts Long Term Programmes?	Characteristics
GTC	Y	Only A-ranked proposals will be accepted as LTP.
TNG	N	
NOT	Y	Not currently
WHT	N	
INT		
STELLA	Y	
Liverpool Telescope	Y	Maximum time request: 50 hours/semester Minimum time request: 10 hours/semester Instruments offered: MUSCAT2
TCS	Y	
TTT80 / TTT200	N	
Mercator	Y	

INFORMATION BY TELESCOPE

GTC

The complete GTC call for proposals for this semester is available here (https://www.gtc.iac.es/observing/media/GTC_2027A_CallForProposals.pdf).

In 2027A, the time available to the Spanish community will be about 560h.

The instruments offered are:

- OSIRIS+ (<https://www.gtc.iac.es/instruments/osiris+/osiris+.php>)
- MEGARA (<http://www.gtc.iac.es/instruments/megara/megara.php>)
- EMIR+ (<https://www.gtc.iac.es/instruments/emir+/emir+.php>)
- HiPERCAM (<https://www.gtc.iac.es/instruments/hipercam/hipercam.php>).

News and important notes

- New higher sensitivity detectors are available both for OSIRIS+ and EMIR+ instruments. **In the case of EMIR+, using the new H2RG implies higher overheads than before** (observing efficiency is now 50% in imaging mode and 75% in spectroscopic modes).
- HiPERCAM is operative at Folded Cass G focal station, including the new COMPO component
- MEGARA is recovered for scientific operations. However, due to pending upgrade works for MEGARA MOS positioners, MEGARA MOS mode will not be available for S27A.
- Large-Programs are offered in S27A for MEGARA (IFU mode), HiPERCAM, OSIRIS+ (imaging and longslit spectroscopy modes), and EMIR+ (imaging and longslit spectroscopy modes). A single instrument or a combination of the four instruments can be requested, accounting for a maximum of 50 h per semester in the present call. Note that ToO proposals are not accepted for GTC-LP, and it is also not allowed to request the use of diffuser/narrow band filters with HiPERCAM for GTC-LP.
- From S27A, GTC accepts monitoring programmes, but only when these are allocated as A-ranked proposals.
- The 10 to 14 hours and 17 to 18 hours R.A. ranges are highly subscribed by ongoing high-priority large programmes, in particular during dark/grey time and under good seeing conditions; the 20 to 23 hours R.A. range is generally under-subscribed.

- Bright moon time is under-subscribed (this time is mostly reserved for observations with EMIR+).
- For all approved proposals (bands A, B, C, and filler), GTC Phase 2 information must be submitted by the deadline corresponding to the semester of acceptance.

OSIRIS+

The OSIRIS optical spectrograph and imager will be available at the Cassegrain focal station with **its new monolithic blue sensitivity CCD (OSIRIS+)**. Available observing modes are: Broad-band imaging; Medium-band imaging (SHARDS filters, http://www.gtc.iac.es/instruments/osiris+/osiris+.php#SHARDS_Filters); Long-slit spectroscopy; Multi-object spectroscopy.

Multi-object spectroscopy (MOS):

- MOS observations will only be carried out for proposals that are highly ranked by the TACs (i.e., A or B ranked bands). Proposals requesting MOS mode that are not sufficiently highly ranked will hence be rejected.
- **Due to the change to a new OSIRIS CCD, previously produced masks are no longer usable.** For further practical limitations we point the interested reader to <http://www.gtc.iac.es/instruments/osiris+/osirisMOS.php>.
- Slit widths as narrow as 0.63 arcsec are allowed, but users always must be aware of the 0.1 arcsec (r.m.s.) accuracy achievable in the slit positioning when defining the scientific goals of the program.

EMIR+

The EMIR near-infrared wide-field imager and medium-resolution spectrograph will be available in the Nasmyth-A focal station **with its new higher sensitivity H2RG detector (EMIR+)**

Observing modes offered in the present call are: Broad-band imaging (Y, J, H, Ks filters); narrow-band imaging ([FeII],[FeII]_{cont},Br γ , Br γ _{cont},H₂(1-0),H₂(2-1)); long-slit spectroscopy (0.6", 0.8", 1.0", 1.2", 1.6", and 5.0" slit widths); multi-object spectroscopy.

Note that with the new EMIR+ detector overheads are larger than before. The new detector overheads are as follows: 50% for imaging and 75% for spectroscopy. These overheads must be added to the on-source integration times. To optimize the telescope time for a predefined on-source integration time, applicants should use the *EMIR efficiency calculator* available at:

www.iac.es/proyecto/emir/pages/observing-with-emir/observing-tools/efficiency-calculator.php

All applicants are recommended to read the instrument manual (<https://www.gtc.iac.es/instruments/emir/emir.php>) carefully.

The time needed to perform EMIR night-time calibrations (e.g., observations of telluric standard stars, wavelength calibration, etc.) will be charged to the observing programs. Therefore, applicants must include all the time needed to perform these calibrations together with the time needed for the science observations in the total requested telescope time in their proposals.

MEGARA

For Semester 2027A MEGARA optical spectrograph will be available only for integral-field Unit (IFU) observations at intermediate-to-high spectral resolutions ($R \sim 5,500$, 12,000 and 20,000 for the LR, MR and HR modes respectively).

HiPERCAM

The HiPERCAM high-speed, multi-band imager is a GTC visitor instrument (P.I. Vik Dhillon) that has been **permanently** installed at the new Folded-Cass G focal station. HiPERCAM provides simultaneously imaging in 5 channels (u', g', r', i', z'), at (windowed) rates over 1 kHz in a FOV of 2.8' x 1.4' with a 0.081"/pix plate scale.

HiPERCAM was installed at FCass G focal station in mid-April 2023, including the new COMPO subsystem.

The use of the narrowband filters and of the diffuser is only accepted for A-band ranked regular programs (but not accepted for Large Programmes and for ToO programmes).

Further information about the instrument is found in the GTC web pages at <http://www.gtc.iac.es/instruments/hipercam/hipercam.php> and/or contacting the instrument PI at vik.dhillon@sheffield.ac.uk

Target-of-opportunity (ToOs)

- The execution of ToO observations will follow the TAC policy defined at: <https://vivaldi.ll.iac.es/OOCC/night-cat/cat-too-gtc/>
- GTC accepts ToOs override proposals. GTC's procedure for triggering ToO observations can be found at <http://www.gtc.iac.es/observing/too.php>.
- ToO proposals are accepted for service observations.
- ToO proposals are not accepted for Large Programmes (or as part of Large Programmes) at GTC.
- ToO regular programs can request HiPERCAM observations without narrow-band filters and the diffuser.

- ToO proposals will be recommended with appropriate priority only if ranked in bands A or B; those in band C will not be approved. ToO proposals do not carry over to the next semester.

GTC Large Programmes (GTC-LP)

- For S27A, Large Programmes can be requested at GTC. These programs can request a **maximum of 50 hours per semester of the CAT observing time at the GTC in the present call.**
- A GTC-LP is defined as a program with the potential to lead to a major advance in a specific field of astrophysics, requiring a minimum of 100 hours of GTC time which, in this call, can be distributed over 2 to 4 semesters. In addition to a strong scientific justification, proposers should have the necessary person-power and tools for a quick and comprehensive analysis of the data and publication of the results.
- By the time of this announcement, only MEGARA (IFU mode), HiPERCAM, OSIRIS+ (imaging and longslit spectroscopy modes) and EMIR+ (imaging and longslit spectroscopy modes) can be requested for the execution of a GTC-LP. A single instrument or a combination of the four instruments can be requested.
- ToO proposals are not accepted for Large Programmes at GTC and it is also not allowed to request the use of diffuser/narrow band filters with HiPERCAM for GTC-LP
- LP should comply with the conditions, particularly those regarding dark, gray, and bright night time, described here (<https://research.iac.es/OOCC/night-cat/regular-and-large-proposals/>)

Protected objects

Due to the execution of Guaranteed Time Observations (GTO) of various instrumental teams, all applicants are kindly requested to check the list of protected objects here (<http://www.gtc.iac.es/instruments/>) (follow the links to the corresponding instrument). Protected objects cannot be proposed for observation by other users, unless an instrumental setup different to that of the GTO is required.

Overheads

Applicants should request total telescope time, including both on-source exposure time and overheads. For the calculation of observing overheads, the GTC Observatory strongly recommends using the Phase 2 simulator (<http://gtc-phase2.gtc.iac.es/science/F2/>). Please also consult the GTC call for proposals and <http://www.gtc.iac.es/observing/> for further details and see notes about overheads in EMIR+ in the relevant section of this call.

When observing with EMIR, for reasons of overall efficiency and since these calibrations are specific for each observing program, **we require that applicants define their night-time calibrations also as observing blocks**. The time necessary for these calibrations will be charged to the observing program and should therefore be included in the time request.

See <http://www.gtc.iac.es/observing/> for further details.

Spanish-UF time

Up to 1.25% of the GTC observing time is reserved for collaborative proposals between Spanish and University of Florida astronomers. Proposals to be sent under this agreement will need to be submitted through the specific “Night time calls” at <https://proposals.iac.es/>

Telescope Support Model

Observations at GTC can be either carried out in *queue-scheduled service mode* by trained GTC support astronomers, or in *visitor mode*. The appropriate option should be clearly specified in the proposal form.

Users are encouraged to request Visitor Mode when beneficial for science programs. GTC offers some flexibility in the scheduling of this mode to increase the chance of success of the proposal.

Visitor programs will only be admitted for A- or B- ranked proposals. Lower ranked programs will automatically be placed in the observing queue, except for those requesting observing modes that are only admitted in visitor mode (e.g. programs using high-speed readout modes of OSIRIS). GRANTECAN will aim to follow the preference of the PI when drawing up the observing schedule, but no guarantee can be given that all preferences can and will be honored.

If requesting visitor mode, the team must either include a valid backup program, following the same rules as for visitor-mode telescopes in this call, that can be carried out if the observing conditions required for the principal program are not met or explicitly state that any unused time will be returned to the Observatory for queue/service observations.

In visitor mode, the PI will normally be present at the telescope during the observations. **Remote visitor mode is also supported in GTC.** If on the scheduled dates the PI cannot travel to the observatory, then the GTC support astronomer will carry out the observations in service mode, with the possibility of remote connection of the PI that allows real-time assessment of the data quality and the opportunity to adjust the observing parameters (remote visitor mode functionality has been enhanced during the last year, providing a better access to the scientific data and telescope status).

Ranking

Starting in semester 2019A, all proposals (including ToO) will be ranked in bands A, B, C, and filler.

Principal Investigators of A-, B-, and C-ranked proposals and filler projects must complete GTC Phase 2 of ALL approved observations in due time. The bands assigned to each proposal are defined as follows:

- **A-band** proposals have very high priority and all possible efforts will be made to execute all of the required/approved observations in the requested semester. If for any reason, observations of A-band proposals are not completed by the end of the corresponding semester, the existing GTC Phase 2 will be granted an extended life-time of two additional semesters, or until its completion, whichever comes first; hence, during this carry-over period, the proposal does not need to be resubmitted. Approximately the top 25% (according to the CAT ranking) of the total amount of GTC available observing time will be allocated in this band.
- **B-band** proposals fall in the remaining 75% of the total amount of GTC available observing time falls. B-band proposals will be executed on a best-effort basis during the requested semester, and do not have a carry-over status.
- **C-band** proposals will be executed only when no observations from A- or B-band programmes can be executed. C-band proposals do have very little opportunity of execution until completion of the project, yet they are included in the GTC observing queue.
- **Fillers** In order to have an efficient queue-scheduled observations scheme for the GTC, it is useful to have a set of “filler” programs that can be executed under adverse observing conditions (bad seeing, poor sky transmission, etc.). Filler proposals can request common-user instruments with simple instrumental configurations. These programs must contain targets spanning a wide range in right ascension (R. A.). Filler proposals will only be executed if the observing conditions do not permit observations of proposals in A-, B-, or C-bands. Proposers may request filler status for their program, and during the proposal selection process the CAT will evaluate their suitability for this category. Such proposals can request a large number of observing hours. Note that filler proposals have generally been highly successful in the last semesters.

In order to be considered as filler proposals, they must fulfill the following requirements:

- The observing requirements should be very relaxed, i.e. little or no restrictions on seeing or cloud coverage.
- The chosen observing mode should be a frequently used mode.
- There is a scientific gain even if only a small fraction of the requested observations are executed.
- A list of targets with a broad R.A. coverage is provided or, if only few targets are included, they must have good visibility during the semester.

- Filler proposals cannot contain Target of Opportunity (ToO) targets.

After publication of the GTC data

All PIs will be contacted by the CAB, CSIC-INTA, archive staff and invited to send their reduced data products for public release to the astronomical community through the GTC archive.

All publications produced from observations taken with GTC must include the programme IDs of the data used (i.e., GTCXXX-SSSS).

TNG

- Offered instruments:
- GIANO-B (<http://www.tng.iac.es/instruments/giano-b/>)
- HARPS-N (<http://www.tng.iac.es/instruments/harps/>)
- NICS (<http://www.tng.iac.es/instruments/nics/>)
- DOLORES (<http://www.tng.iac.es/instruments/lrs/>)
- GIARPS = GIANO-B (<http://www.tng.iac.es/instruments/giano-b/>) + HARPS-N (<http://www.tng.iac.es/instruments/harps/>)
- Available telescope time for the Spanish community: approximately 31 nights.
- The polarimetric mode with DOLORES will be unavailable during the semester 2027A. The TNG polarimeter is mounted at the GTC; TNG encourages to ask for observations using the GTC when it will be available.
- The execution of the observations related to the long-term program A53TAC_69 “Follow-up of the electromagnetic counterparts of gravitational wave sources at TNG during O4b” may have a significant impact on the schedule of the semester 2027A.
- Monitoring mode is subjected to severe limitations at TNG. The schedule is dominated by long blocks of full-nights belonging to Large Programs dedicated to Exoplanetary Science. Proposals requesting high frequency monitoring of exoplanets or other targets should clearly specify the ideal and the minimum rate needed to get the expected scientific results. In any case, too dense cadence (like 1 visit per week or less) will be probably considered not feasible due to scheduling issues. Moreover, to optimize the telescope observing time and scientific return in exoplanets observations, **time sharing (TS) with Large Programs is necessary.**

- Starting from the semester 2025A, new rules on the time-sharing among programs of exoplanetary science are in force. **It is essential that researchers** who would like to submit a proposal on exo-planetary science needing monitoring of Radial Velocities over a wide range of dates **take into account the important considerations on TS.**

These are reported below, with some additional considerations (but please make sure to consult also the URL https://www.tng.iac.es/observing/time_sharing_policy.html):

- There are several Large Programs (LPs) on exoplanetary science ongoing at the TNG, with granted time until AOT57 (or 2028A). To optimize the scientific return for their science goals, the two main scientific groups with approved LPs (HARPS-N and GAPS collaborations) already agreed on sharing the observing time at the telescope.
- Exoplanetary science (with HARPS-N and/or GIANO-B) is not the only observing mode of the TNG. Other science cases with different instruments have been approved which means that dense monitoring with frequent observations every few days is not possible, even in case of TS. TS is only available when exoplanetary science programs are scheduled and even so, on a best effort basis.
- **At the earliest time or at least two weeks before the closure of a new call** for Observing time (TAC, CAT, ITP, ORP), the researchers who know that their science goal could only be attained with TS should properly fill the form available at the following [form](#).
- The above form will only be **available on-line until one week before the deadline of the call**. Failure to submit the compiled form in due time will imply that the program is technically unfeasible.
- The final acceptance of the TS by the other groups with already approved time is subjected to the following constraints:
 - Programs requesting to join the TS group must have scientific goals that do not overlap with those of existing TS group members. Applicants in such cases may still submit their proposals to the Spanish CAT call but should refrain from requesting inclusion in the TS group.
 - The target list should not encompass targets for which one of the programs in the TS has already expressed interest. In case of a strong and justified interest on the same target, a spirit of collaboration is encouraged and a policy on the use and publication of the data should be agreed before submitting the proposal. The time allocation committees judging the proposal should be informed of the possible conflict due to mutual interest and know in advance if the groups already agreed on collaborating.

- The scheduling of the targets of the new proposal will be organized on a best effort basis and in any case will not be detrimental for other programs already in the TS. Asking for TS is accepting the scheduling of the targets organized by one of the two main groups.
 - PIs of the proposal accept to provide observers for the scheduled nights who: [1] will follow the scheduled observations from the schedulers of the two main groups (HARPS-N Collaboration and GAPS) and [2] will accept that the observing shift could be larger than the assigned time to their proposal (i.e. assigned 1 night to the proposal, but could be observing for 3 consecutive nights).
 - PIs of the proposal accept that the calculated percentage of shared time will be based on the allocated time by the TAC and that the bad weather loss will be equally distributed with the same percentage.
 - Programs requesting TS will accept to dedicate 5% of their time to monitoring of HPRV standard stars. These data will be open data available at the Italian IA2 archive or at DACE at University of Geneva. Consider this time as a final overhead when requesting observations in time sharing.
 - Time Constraint observations (transits) are typically not included in the TS, however the hours of the night outside the transit could be used for TS.
 - PIs and observers of programs within the TS will respect a no disclosure of the data from other programs.
- **Proposals that fail to demonstrate that an agreement of TS has been reached will be considered as technically unfeasible by the TNG staff**
- There are no protected targets.

WHT

Detailed information provided by the ING Observatory can be found in the [ING call for proposals](#). Below we provide an extended summary. All potential applicants must become familiar with the series of changes in instrument availability and of observing time at the WHT and INT driven by the arrival of new survey instruments. The changes are also summarized [here](#).

WEAVE

In semester 2027A, we offer **all three** WEAVE observing modes: **MOS**, **LIFU**, and **mini-IFUs (mIFU)**. Following the recent rotator stand-down, both the **MOS** and **mIFU** modes are currently undergoing re-commissioning. Consequently, observations for these two modes are offered on a **shared-risk** basis. We expect to resume standard science observations with the LIFU shortly, with the other modes following as re-commissioning concludes.

The instrumental capabilities of WEAVE are summarised on

<https://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/instruments/weave/weaveinst.html>

Prospective applicants should note that, as in recent calls, the period is shifted relative to the semester typically followed by ING. This call is for observations to be carried out during 1st May – 31st October 2027. The 3-month shift relative to the usual semesters is imposed by the long lead time for preparation of the WEAVE observing blocks.

Approximately 30% of the available WHT night-time during this period is offered for open-time proposals, following the standard UK, Dutch and Spanish shares. Information about applying for WEAVE Open Time Programme can be found on:

<https://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/observing/WEAVE-OT.html>

All observations will be queue-scheduled, executed in service mode, and carried out alongside WEAVE Survey operations. ING welcomes astronomers from the teams of successful PIs being at the telescope during WEAVE observing nights, but PIs should note there's little chance of their own observations being carried out during their visit. Such visits should be organised well in advance in consultation with ING.

WEAVE data will be processed with the standard CPS and APS pipelines and made available through the [CamCEAD Operational Repository](#) and the [WEAVE archive](#).

Following the WEAVE Data Policy agreed between ING and the WEAVE Project, prospective PIs should note that the surveys do not have reserved targets, or reserved science topics. However, any data which preempt, or replicate Survey data will be made available immediately to archive users in the same way as WEAVE Survey data, and will be assigned a proprietary period corresponding to Survey data.

WEAVE Open-Time Target of Opportunity observations

In semester 2027A, ING will offer Target of Opportunity (ToO) observations **using the WEAVE LIFU mode**.

ToO proposals will be evaluated in the same manner as regular open-time proposals, though only Band A programmes are likely to be attempted. ING anticipates executing at most one ToO trigger per night, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Following [activation by the proposing team](#), ING will prepare the OBs; the observing strategy must follow that approved in the proposal, and triggers must remain within the allocated time.

At present, ING supports “next-day” triggers: triggers must be received by 12:00 UT on the preceding day. ING will attempt shorter-notice triggers on a best-effort basis.

Guidelines for LIFU Proposals and Filler Observations

- Non-sidereal observations are now possible with the LIFU and can be executed as part of both regular open-time and ToO programmes. These should be especially useful for imaging spectroscopy of Solar System bodies.

- ING encourages PIs to submit LIFU proposals designed for poor observing conditions during bright time, namely: seeing >2 arcsec, transparency ~ 0.4 and sky brightness ≤ 17.7 mag arcsec $^{-2}$. Proposals submitted with OBSTEMP = XEFEG will be treated as queue fillers. If awarded time, these programmes will remain in the queue until completion or for up to 1.5 years, whichever comes first.
- Given the large fibre diameters, 2.6 arcsec for LIFU, PIs should usually not specify seeing < 2 arcsec for LIFU proposals. Any requests for seeing < 2 arcsec must be clearly justified and will be scrutinised at the technical-assessment stage.
- Observers requiring dark sky are recommended to request sky brightness $V < 21.5$ mag/arcsec ^{2} to improve the chance that proposals get observed. Darker skies are observed on La Palma, but require a rarer combination of RA, Dec and time during the solar cycle.

INT

HARPS3 Status

HARPS3 is undergoing integration at the INT. A technical issue with the detector unit cryostat has delayed the start of commissioning activities and, as a result, **HARPS3 will not be offered for new proposals in the 2027A semester.**

Programmes that were approved in the previous semester are being **carried over** to 2027A. These observations are also being utilised to finalise the commissioning of the scheduler and for full validation of robotic operations. ING is working closely with the HARPS3 team to resolve the cryostat issue and will provide further updates as commissioning progresses

NOT

Offered common-user instruments:

- ALFOSC (<https://www.not.iac.es/instruments/alfosc/>)
- StanCam (<https://www.not.iac.es/instruments/stancam/>)
- NOTCam (<https://www.not.iac.es/instruments/notcam/>)
- FIES (<https://www.not.iac.es/instruments/fies/>)
- non-common user instruments

(listed here: <http://www.not.iac.es/instruments/instruments.html#specs>)

Available telescope time for the Spanish community is typically 31 nights per semester to be distributed over the 6 months. Observing runs are allocated as full visitor nights and only exceptionally as shared nights.

STELLA

The instruments WiFSIP and SES are offered.

The telescope control software has been upgraded to allow for non-sidereal tracking and guiding for solar-system observations with WiFSIP/Stella-1.

Available telescope time for the Spanish community is: ~120 h with WiFSIP and ~180 h with SES.

Liverpool Telescope (LT)

The offered instruments are IO:O, RISE, SPRAT, MOPTOP, and LIRIC.

Highlights:

- Available telescope time for the Spanish community is: 150 h (band A+B) + 50 h (band C).
- At some point in semester 27A the camera in IO:O is expected to be replaced with a new CMOS model that will offer similar performance, faster readout times but a slightly smaller field of view. Contact the LT team for more information if this might impact your programme.
- In addition to applying for telescope time through the CAT twice-yearly process, LT now also allows observers to apply for PriorityZ time via: <http://telescope.livjm.ac.uk/PropInst/PriorityZ>

PriorityZ time is defined as time when there is no A, B or C-ranked science group available for the scheduling software to pick, and so the telescope would otherwise sit idle. This can occur during periods of poor seeing during full moon, or during times of instrument failure. Approximately 10-15 hours of such time are available per month, although this can vary significantly. PriorityZ time is well-suited to long-term proposals of bright targets with no significant time constraints. We would typically expect to approve a PriorityZ proposal for a period of two years. Observers can apply via the web form available at the above link, and proposals will be assessed internally by LT staff. Proposals can be submitted at any time.

- Check the [restrictions and guidance notes](#) for the Liverpool Telescope.

Mercator Telescope

Offered instruments: HERMES

Highlights:

- Available telescope time for the Spanish community is: 29 nights.
- It is strongly recommended to request long runs and full nights since the Observatory will reduce the number of introduction due to limited local person-power.
- The low-resolution, high stability mode of HERMES is no longer available.
- The high-resolution mode is more efficient, and a double mode in which the object's spectrum is interleaved with a simultaneous ThArNe exposure is offered. The double mode is intended only for radial velocity work : the background cannot be corrected so if you are interested in the extracted 1D spectrum, you cannot use this mode.
- The exposure time calculator on the web has been updated accordingly with respect to the efficiency of HERMES.
- A new guiding mode on the spectrographic telescope is introduced, which allows now guiding in close visual binaries separated by at least 3 arcsec (the spectrograph's entrance pinhole diameter). This works for faint companions as well.
- Dedicated pipeline is available on site and spectra are reduced fully after every night. The CAT observers will have the fully reduced data products available after and during their run.
- There is a remote observing system but only from the special setup at the KULeuven university, so this is of limited interest for CAT observers unless they are hosted in Belgium.

Telescopio Carlos Sánchez (TCS)

Offered instruments on the TCS are MuSCAT2. The instrument FastCAM is also available under request and it is operated on a shared-risk basis.

- About 90 nights are offered to the CAT community.
- Usual operation mode is remote observing, although visitor mode is also possible.
- Target of Opportunities proposals are accepted. Priority is given to MuSCAT2 team guaranteed time.
- Large Programmes are offered for a maximum of 4 semesters.
- Technical information about the instruments and their pipelines are given at the MuSCAT2 and FastCAM webpages.

Two-meter Twin Telescope (TTT)

Offered imaging instruments on 80-cm and 200-cm telescopes are the following:

- TTT80 - FERVOR-M (sCMOS) SDSS filters Lum, g', r', i', zs, Ha, OIII (FOV 22.6' × 15.1', 0.28 arcsec/pix)
- TTT200 - FERVOR-M (sCMOS) SDSS filters Lum, g', r', i', zs, Ha, OIII (FOV 10.2' × 6.8', 0.19 arcsec/pix)

Highlights:

- The Observatory offers observing time on a **shared-risk basis**.
- Available telescope time for the Spanish community is: ~511 h on TTT80 and ~255.5 h on TTT200.
- No visitor mode offered.
- Exposure time calculator is available.
- On this link there is a video indicating how to prepare phase 2 for approved programs.
- This is the link for the preparation of phase 2 (called DTO using TTT terminology).

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CAT = “Comité de Asignación de Tiempo” (Time Allocation Committee)

GTC = Gran Telescopio Canarias

ING = Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes

INT = Isaac Newton Telescope

LP = Large Programme

LT = Liverpool Telescope

LTP = Long Term Programme

NOT = Nordic Optical Telescope

STELLA = STELLar Activity

TCS = Telescopio Carlos Sanchez

TNG = Telescopio Nazionale Galileo

ToO = Target-of-Opportunity

TTT200 = 200cm aperture telescope part of the Two-meter Twin Telescope project

TTT80 = Two 80cm aperture telescopes part of the Two-meter Twin Telescope project.

WHT = William Herschel Telescope