



# Call for GTC Science Verification Proposals



**Deadline: 17 July 2008**

## **GTC Science Verification Observations**

The GTC Project Office is pleased to announce this open call for Science Verification observations with the 10.4m Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC) for the GTC user community. The purpose of these observations is to obtain feedback from the user community and to provide early science opportunities.

An integral part of the commissioning of the GTC and its instruments are the planned Science Verification (SV) observations. These SV observations will be performed once the GTC First Generation instruments (OSIRIS and CanariCam) have been commissioned to a sufficiently advanced stage to allow shared-risk science observations. SV observations may therefore take place anytime from the start of the commissioning period of the instruments this coming fall, to the start of regular scientific observing in March 2009. All SV observations are conducted in Service Mode by the GTC staff. The observations will be delivered to the PI shortly after the observations have been obtained and following a basic quality check by the GTC staff. To achieve the objectives of this call, it is important that the observations are promptly reduced by the PI and his/her team, and a report sent to the GTC to provide feedback on the quality of the data and any other aspect of the observing experience.

The SV observations are offered on a best effort basis, and no guarantee can be given that the observations will be carried out. SV runs will be interleaved with commissioning operations. Information on the GTC and its first science instruments, OSIRIS and CanariCam, can be seen at <http://gtc.iac.es>

## **Main Objectives of the GTC Science Verification Observations**

The main objectives of the SV observations are:

- Offer the GTC community early science opportunities
- Test the performance of the Phase II preparation tool
- Test the performance of the GTC and its initial instruments in all the available observing modes
- Demonstrate the scientific potential of the GTC and its first instruments
- De-bug pipeline and data reduction tools that may be available at the time of SV
- Provide immediate feedback to the GTC science operation staff about the various phases of the observing process

## **GTC Science Verification Programmes and Data Policy**

The scientific exploitation of the SV data can start as soon as the data are released. PIs are encouraged to promptly use the data. PIs are kindly requested to send to GTC copies of any preprint or published paper that may result from SV data.

Authors of papers resulting from GTC SV data should include in the acknowledgements the following phrase: *“Based on observations obtained with the GTC. The GTC is located at the IAC Observatory of El Roque de los Muchachos and is a partnership between the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC, Spain), the Instituto Astronomía (UNAM, Mexico), the Instituto de Astronomía, Óptica y Electrónica (INAOE, Mexico) and the University of Florida (Gainesville, USA).”*

### **Procedures for applying to the GTC Science Verification Time**

Applicants to the GTC SV time should use the IAC’s CAT web page (<http://cat.iac.es>). They should register and proceed by filling in the identification page. Once this is done they can proceed completing a) the science case (brief) and b) the instrumental configuration and a justification for the requested time (max 6 hours). The system will then produce a PDF file that needs to be attached at the time of submission, as is explained in the CAT web pages.

Proposals sent under the SV scheme will be reviewed respectively by the Spanish CAT, and ad hoc committees created in Mexico and Florida. Those PIs whose proposals have been accepted will be asked to complete their proposals using the GTC Phase-2 tool.

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