

2026-2027 Night-Time CCI International Time Programme

NB: The deadline for the call for proposals for the semesters 2026B-2027A is 9 March 2026 at 23:59 UTC.

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), Mercator (1.2m) and **up to 80 hours/year** on the GTC (10m), WHT (4.2m), NOT (2.56m), LT (2m) & STELLA (2x1.2m). Note that submitting requests for multiple telescopes is generally expected. If time on only one telescope is requested, it must be fully justified that the proposed science cannot be allocated through the existing evaluation channels of that facility. A proposal can exceptionally cover a period of up to two consecutive years (4 semesters); the number of nights available may be reduced because of long-term allocations made the previous year. Proposals **must** include a justification of the time requested on each telescope. **Proposals for ITP observing time must be submitted through the web-based system: <https://proposals.iac.es/> .** If you have not done so already, please register on the platform and select the ITP call. Please do not hesitate to contact the CCI at cci@iac.es for any queries regarding this call for proposals.

Specific guidelines for the individual telescope facilities are available on their websites. PIs need to ascertain before writing their proposal which instruments will be available.

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 must have principal investigators astronomers from one of the seven European countries (Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom) that are signatories to the Agreements for Cooperation in Astrophysics.** In addition, the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators must together represent at least three of the countries mentioned above. 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.

The observing programmes should concentrate on a single astronomical investigation. **Proposals that would benefit from the use of more than one facility are especially encouraged. It will be considered an exclusion criterion for evaluation that the requested time can be obtained through the CAT or through the regular observing time offered by the requested telescopes.** Therefore, we ask applicants, from any country allowed to apply, to explain why the requested observing time does not fit within the "normal" allocation scheme of their facilities (field *international time justification* in section *Justifications & Others*). Being a large program at one facility is not, by itself, sufficient to justify eligibility. Hence, a typical ITP programme is a large or a small programme that involves a complementary use of different telescope facilities, with a clear case why the total is more than the sum of the parts.

Each proposal will be assessed scientifically by the **ITP Time Allocation Committee (TAC)**, Chaired by the CCI's Scientific Adviser Dr. H. Korhonen and supported by specialist referees. Scientific excellence is a prime consideration. The ITP TAC recommendation will be validated by 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.

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. Note that proposals awarded time by the national committees have scheduling 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 publicly 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 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 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 communicated in the call for proposals, and the decision on time allocation is expected to be announced in June. The **Application can be submitted at <https://proposals.iac.es/> and** will require the following information:

- Title and Abstract (max. 1,500 characters).
- General Data: previous ITP TAC evaluation; management plan (including work distribution among Co-Investigators); use of any previously awarded ITP time,
- Investigators: List of applicants and their affiliations.
- Rationale: Scientific rationale (max. 6,000 characters) including introduction, motivation, relevance, and objectives; one single-page figure with caption; references.
- Observations: Telescope(s) and observing mode; requested time per telescope; targets; observing plan and analysis (max. 2,000 characters); previous experience with the instrument; justification of telescope and configuration; existing observations of the same target in archives.

- Justification & Others: Reason why the requested time does not fit the normal allocation scheme of the facilities; publication plan; coordinated or simultaneous observations and relevant references from the research team.