

2025-2026 Night-Time CCI International Time Programme

NB: The deadline for the call for proposals for the semesters 2025B-2026A is 7 March 2025 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). 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 last year. Proposals **must** include a justification of the time requested on each telescope. The **Application Form** can be downloaded from the CCI webpage¹ or requested from cci@iac.es.

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 should be international in their range of participants and must have as principal or co-investigators astronomers from at least three of the seven European countries that are signatories to the Agreements for Cooperation in Astrophysics².** 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 or OPTICON-RadioNet Pilot.

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,** and in particular those which would be unlikely to obtain the necessary large amount of observing time through the usual time allocation panels because of the difficulty to coordinate several telescopes. Hence, **a typical ITP programme is a large or a small international 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.** Scientific excellence is a prime consideration. Each proposal will be assessed scientifically by a **specialist ITP Time Allocation Committee (TAC)**, Chaired by the CCI's Scientific Adviser Dr H. Korhonen and supported by specialist referees. The ITP TAC recommendation will be validated by the members of 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. The CCI may award time to one or more projects.

¹ <https://www.iac.es/en/observatorios-de-canarias/international-scientific-committee>

² Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain & the UK.

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. Proposals awarded time by the national committees have 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 by the [operator/s] 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 will be communicated in the call for proposals, and the decision on time allocation is expected to be announced in June. The **Application Form** can be downloaded from the CCI webpage³ or requested from cci@iac.es and will require the following information:

- a. Title; list of applicants and their affiliations.
- b. An abstract, not exceeding 2,000 characters.
- c. A table specifying the time requested per telescope and the observing mode/s.
- d. A scientific justification including:
 - Relevant background.
 - Motivation for programme.
 - What the programme can achieve.
- e. A target list
- f. Assessment of technical feasibility, including justification of the amount of observing time per telescope.
- g. A project management plan, which includes how the work will be shared among the CoIs.
- h. A commentary on the use made of earlier ITP time awarded to any of the applicants (only if ITP has been granted previously).
- i. References.

The page limit for each section is indicated on the Form; any information beyond this limit will be excluded. Proposals must be saved as a pdf file and returned by e-mail to: cci@iac.es The CCI Secretary will confirm its safe reception and indicate the corresponding Proposal Number.

³ <https://www.iac.es/en/observatorios-de-canarias/international-scientific-committee>