

Announcement of

ESO Large Programmes on the Gran Telescopio Canarias

The accession agreement of Spain into ESO includes the allocation of 122 clear nights with the new 10.4-m Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC) to proposals by PI's from ESO member countries (including Spain).

The ESO/GTC programmes must satisfy the following conditions: (1) each programme should request a minimum of 20 nights; (2) the observations will be conducted either in Service or in Visitor Mode by the ESO/GTC PI teams according to the standard GTC operational procedures.

The mechanism for submission and evaluation of ESO/GTC proposals, and the duration of the programmes will be the

same as that for ESO Large Programmes. There will be two calls for proposals for the first year of operations with deadlines 21 April 2008 for observations starting in March 2009, and 16 October 2008 for observations starting in September 2009. For the first (this) call, the available instruments will be the optical imager and multi-object spectrograph OSIRIS and the mid-IR imager-spectro-polarimeter CanariCam, which will be commissioned during 2008. Proposals should be prepared using the information available on the web, which includes exposure-time calculators. Technical information about the telescope and the instruments OSIRIS and CanariCam is available through the GTC web pages, <http://www.gtc.iac.es/>.

The ESO rules for Guaranteed Time Observations (GTO) will apply to the ESO/GTC programmes recommended by the OPC. Please refer to the ESO Call for Proposals for Period 82 and to the ESO web pages <http://www.eso.org/sci/> for additional information on this call.



Announcement of the

ASTRONET Infrastructure Roadmap Symposium: An Opportunity to Contribute to the European Astrophysical Strategy for the Next 20 Years

16–19 June 2008, Liverpool, United Kingdom

Faithful readers of the ESO Messenger might experience here a slight feeling of *déjà vu*. A year or so after the Astronet Poitiers Symposium, where the community at large provided precious feedback on the European astronomical Science Vision, it is time for another call for arms ... and brains. This second and last time is to invite every European researcher in the scientific, technical, educational

and communicating astronomy fields to help in the building of an Infrastructure Roadmap for the next 20 years. You are strongly encouraged to participate in the 16–19 June 2008 Astronet Infrastructure Roadmap Symposium in Liverpool, United Kingdom. Please note also that, in preparation for the Symposium, a web-based discussion of the Infrastructure Roadmap draft document will open by the end of April 2008 and your input is eagerly sought as well.

Establishing a Science Vision was the first segment of the process conducted by ASTRONET (<http://www.astronet-eu.org/>), the consortium created by a group of European funding agencies, and financed by the European Commission, in order to establish a comprehensive long-term planning for the development of European astronomy. The Science Vision was released at the end of September 2007 (<http://www.strw.leidenuniv.nl/sciencevision/>). It covers all wavelengths

and observing means from ground and space and provides a set of prioritised science goals as well as an analysis of the generic facilities needed to attain them.

The next and last phase is the building of a prioritised 'Infrastructure Roadmap', elucidating the ways and means to implement the Vision. This process (<http://www.astronet-eu.org/-Infrastructure-Roadmap->) started in March 2007. Thematic panels drawn from the astronomical community have since addressed the whole astronomical 'food chain' from infrastructure and technology development to observation, data access, modelling, theory, education, training and public communication. Their input is currently being distilled by the Infrastructure Roadmap Working Group, which is composed of the panel chairs and co-chairs plus external experts, with the release of the draft roadmap on the Astronet web pages, expected by the end of April 2008.

