

September 3, 2009

Call for Observing Proposals: Semester 2010A (Jan. 2010 — June 2010)

Observing proposals for the 188 cm reflector*¹ at Okayama Astrophysical Observatory (OAO) are invited*² for the observing season from early January 2010 to early June 2010 (the semester 2010A). **The proposal deadline is 10:00(JST) October 6, 2009.**

How to prepare and submit your proposal

There are three categories of observations, namely, “Normal”, “Project” and “Student”. Foreign observers can apply to only “Normal” observations as principal investigators.

We ask applicants to fill out the application form of three pages and to attach scientific justification. The scientific justification including figures, tables and references should not be more than two pages in length. A template application form and L^AT_EX style file can be downloaded from the English web page of our observatory (<http://www.oao.nao.ac.jp/en/>).

A graduate student can be a PI, but the supervisor or the equivalent who is responsible for the student should come together for observations.

Since observers are requested to perform their observations mostly by themselves, we ask applicants who do not speak Japanese and are not familiar with the telescope and instruments, to have a Japanese collaborator who is familiar with them. When a foreign applicant finds difficulties in finding a Japanese collaborator, please contact M. Yoshida (yoshida@oao.nao.ac.jp), director of the observatory.

We accept e-mail submission of proposals. Please send both of (1) a T_EX text file of the application form and (2) a PDF file of the scientific justification (within two pages) to proposal@oao.nao.ac.jp as e-mail attachment files. We notify you of receiving your proposal via e-mail (to the e-mail address written in the application form) within two working days. If you do not receive any response from us for more than two working days, please contact us via e-mail (proposal@oao.nao.ac.jp), telephone or fax (see the numbers below). In case of e-mail submission, submission by postal mail is not required. Please read the following “Notes on the OAO Proposal Application” carefully for preparation and submission of your proposal. If you prefer postal mail, please send 16 copies of the proposal to the following address. Please write “OAO application” in red ink on the envelope.

Secretary for Common User Observations
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*1: The 188cm reflector of the Okayama Astrophysical Observatory is operated by National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) as a national facility. The telescope is located at 133° 35' 38" (E), +34° 34' 37" (N) and at an altitude of 372m. The observing sec Z range of the telescope is between 3 and 1. Objects with declination < -35.5° will never be observed.

*2: The applicants need to be completely free to publish the whole observational results.

Michitoshi Yoshida
Director
Okayama Astrophysical Observatory,
National Astronomical Observatory of Japan

Status Report for Common User Observations (Jan. 2010 — June 2010)

Okayama Astrophysical Observatory, NAOJ

As of Sept. 1, 2009

*HIDES (high dispersion echelle spectrograph, observatory instrument):

HIDES is a cross-dispersed echelle spectrograph, placed at the Coude focus of the 188cm reflector. It works at optical wavelengths from 3600Å to 9000Å. The detector is a mosaic of 3 CCDs with 2048x4100 pixels from EEV(#1). Read out noises are about $5e^-$ and the gains are 2.5-3 e^-/ADU for the three CCDs. Total read out time is about 50 seconds. Instantaneous wavelength coverages are 3750Å and 2340Å with the Red and Blue cross-disperser gratings, respectively. The maximum spectral resolution ($\lambda/\Delta\lambda$) of 110,000 is achieved when the slit width is 0.38 arcsec. Details of the mosaic CCD camera can be found at http://www.oao.nao.ac.jp/~hides/wiki/index.php?Mosaic_CCD.en. Three optional functions are available for HIDES, iodine cell, image rotator, and offset guider(#2). Observers who plan to use these functions should give a description about the usage in the item 16, "16. Requests Concerning Instruments:" of the application form. Note that the iodine cell and the image rotator cannot be used at the same time. Please feel free to send any questions on HIDES to izumiura@oao.nao.ac.jp.

#1: Note that this upgrade is a collaboration between Dr. H. Nakaya at Subaru Telescope (present affiliation: Advanced Technology center, NAOJ) and us.

#2: The new wide-field acquisition scope introduced in the last semester does not have an offset guiding function. The function is available only at the slit viewer.

*HBS (low-dispersion spectro-polarimeter, PI-type instrument):

HBS is a grating-dispersed spectro-polarimeter (Kawabata et al.1999, PASP, 111, 898) equipped with a commercially available CCD camera, used at the Cassegrain focus of the 188cm reflector. It works at 3600Å–9000Å. A specific reduction software for the polarimetric data has been developed by the HBS instrument group. HBS is available for common user observations as a PI-type instrument. Namely, if you would like to make observations with HBS, you first need to contact the PI of HBS, Dr. Akira Okazaki (okazaki@edu.gunma-u.ac.jp), prior to the submission of your proposal (at least one week earlier to the deadline), to make sure you can get supports from the HBS instrument group at the observations. Their admittance is mandatory for the proposal submission. Any proposals without their admittance are unacceptable.

*ISLE (near-infrared camera and low-dispersion spectrograph):

ISLE is a near-infrared (1.0–2.5 μm) imager and spectrograph for the Cassegrain focus (f/18) of the 1.88 m telescope at Okayama Astrophysical Observatory (<http://www.oao.nao.ac.jp/isle/>). The detector is a HAWAII Array (HgCdTe 1K \times 1K), which covers 4.2×4.2 arcmin² field of view with a pixel scale of 0.25 arcsec/pixel. ISLE also provides low to medium resolution ($\Delta\lambda/\lambda = 200\text{--}4000$) long-slit (4 arcmin long) spectroscopic capabilities using reflection gratings. Both imaging mode and spectroscopy mode are available in the semester 2010A. Spectroscopy mode is opened as a PI-type instrument on a shared risk basis. Users who wish to make spectroscopic observations should contact the PI of ISLE, K.Yanagisawa (yanagi@oao.nao.ac.jp) prior to the submission of the proposal, at least one week earlier to the deadline. Any proposal without his admittance are unacceptable. On the other hand, imaging mode is opened as a normal open-use instrument. No contact to the PI is needed prior to your proposal submission.

*KOOLS(Kyoto-Okayama Optical Low-dispersion Spectrograph, PI-type instrument):

KOOLS offers two basic observing modes, namely, imaging and long-slit spectroscopy, in optical wavelength for the OAO 188cm telescope. From 2008A the instrument has been open to common use as a PI-type instrument on a shared-risk basis. Applicants who want to use the instrument should contact Dr. I. Iwata (iwata@oao.nao.ac.jp) prior to the submission of the proposal, at least one week earlier to the deadline. His admittance is mandatory for the proposal submission; any proposal without his admittance will be declined. Specifications of the instrument and results of past test observations are available on the instrument web page (<http://www.oao.nao.ac.jp/~kools/>).

Please also see the home page of the observatory for more details of the 188cm reflector and the instruments (<http://www.oao.nao.ac.jp/en/>).

Notes on the OAO Proposal Application Form

Since 2006A the application form has been changed its basis to L^AT_EX. Please see the observatory web page (<http://www.oao.nao.ac.jp/en/>) for general information on open use observations. If you encounter problems, please contact `cfp-consult@oao.nao.ac.jp`.

General Instructions:

- Download both (1) style file (oaoprop10a.sty) and (2) template L^AT_EXfile (template.tex) from the observatory web page .
- Three pages of cover sheet and maximum two pages of scientific justification (including figures, tables and the reference list) are required for normal program.
- Check if all things in your application form fall within the form. Do not use font size smaller than 10pt.
- Do not include figures or tables from page 1 to 4.
- We accept e-mail submission of your proposal. Send both of (1) a T_EX text file of the application form and (2) a PDF file of the scientific justification (within two pages) to `proposal@oao.nao.ac.jp` as e-mail attachment files. We notify you of receiving your proposal via e-mail (to the e-mail address written in the application form) within two working days. If you don't receive any response from the observatory for more than two working days after the submission, please contact the observatory (either e-mail, fax or phone).
- The subject of the e-mail and the files should be named using the family name of PI and the semester, e.g.,
`einstein_2010a.tex`, `einstein_2010a_sj.pdf`, subject: `einstein_2010a`.
When you submit two or more proposals, the names of the files should be like `einstein_2010a_1`, `einstein_2010a_2`, and so on.
- Proposals are reviewed by Time Allocation Committee (TAC) of the observatory (which consists of about six Japanese astronomers outside of the observatory and a few observatory staff members), based on assessment by anonymous referees. Because the **names of PIs are concealed from the referees**, you should not write the PI's name in the Scientific Justification(SJ). You may cite publications by PI or CoIs in the SJ, if required.
- **important:** Write the title of your observing program at the beginning of the SJ. Do **not** indicate your name there, in order to conceal PI's name from referees.

Instructions for filling out the application form:

- **1. Category:** Specify "N" (normal) which is the only category allowed for foreign investigators.
- **2. Principal Investigator:** Write "Yes" if your proposed observation is planned to be a part of your thesis.
- **5. Collaborators:** Write all of your co-investigators' names, institutions and positions.
- **6. Past Observations:** List previous use of the OAO 188cm telescope, if any.
- **8. Supervisor:** If PI is a graduate student, the supervisor should fill out entries in section 8. Also, if the program is accepted, the supervisor must visit observatory along with PI.
- **12. List of Objects:** If you have 13 or more target objects, please attach a separate target list along with the scientific justification.
- **14. Preferred Dates:** Please indicate your preferred dates for observations. Three parentheses in each month indicate first, second and last parts of the month, respectively. 'U's indicate those periods are unavailable.

Example. Early April and late May are preferred:

\PreferredDatesA{\submonth{--}{--}{--}} %Jan
{\submonth{--}{--}{--}} % Feb
{\submonth{--}{--}{--}} % Mar
{\submonth{X}{--}{--}} % Apr
{\submonth{--}{--}{X}} % May
{\submonth{--}{U}{U}} % Jun

Indicate whether you accept shared night observation using Yes / No.

- **15. Requests concerning scheduling:** Enter your requests for scheduling, including moon phases.
- **16. Requests concerning instruments:** If your observation plan needs special instrument setting, describe details of the setting and the items to be prepared before the observation dates. If you need special assistance of the observatory staff, please contact the observatory in advance.
- **17. Technical Description:** Describe clearly the technical feasibility (on observations and data analyses) of your proposed plan.