

January 10, 2013

Call for Observing Proposals: Semester 2013A (May 2013 — Jun. 2013)

Observing proposals for the 188 cm reflector*¹ at Okayama Astrophysical Observatory (OAO) are invited*² for the observing season from early May 2013 to early June 2013 (the semester 2013A). **The proposal deadline is 10:00(JST) Feb. 12, 2013.**

The open-use period and instruments in 2013A are strongly limited. We have started a refurbishment of our 188cm telescope since the beginning of this January, 2013. It aims to control the telescope with an accuracy about 10 times more precisely than ever attained, by replacing both the existing drive and control systems. The period of the refurbishment work, followed by commissioning of instruments, ranges several months, so that the open-use period in 2013A is regrettably limited to early May to early June. The number of open-use instruments is also reduced. We offer HIDES-Slit and HIDES-Fiber as open-use instruments for 2013A since they are most frequently used; the other instruments, ISLE and KOOLS, are not available in 2013A.

The overall schedule of the first half-year period in 2013 is as follows.

Jan. ~ Mar.	Refurbishment work of the 188-cm telescope
Apr.	Commissioning of HIDES-Slit and HIDES-Fiber
May	Open-use with HIDES-slit and HIDES-Fiber
Jun. ~ Jul.	Commissioning of ISLE and KOOLS

We are sorry for our inconvenience.

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 the observatory (cfp-consult@oao.nao.ac.jp).

The submission of a proposal should be made via e-mail. 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).

*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 $< -35.5^\circ$ will never be observed.

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

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Status Report for Common User Observations (May 2013 — June 2013)

Okayama Astrophysical Observatory, NAOJ

As of January 10, 2013

*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 identical CCDs from EEV with 2048x4100 pixels each(#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 40 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. Either “HIDES-Slit” or “HIDES-Fiber” (see below) is selected in the item 11 (11.Instrument) of the application form. Both can be chosen at the same time. In that case, however, the reason should be given in the item 17 (17.Technical Description).

- **HIDES-Slit:**

Usual observing mode with a mechanical slit at the Coude focus. The maximum spectral resolution ($\lambda/\Delta\lambda$) of 110,000 is achieved when the slit width is 0.38 arcsec. Three optional functions are available: 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.

- **HIDES-Fiber:**

We open the high efficiency mode of the fiber-feeding system that has been developed at OAO for HIDES from this semester. The fiber-feeding system sends the incident light at the Cassegrain focus of the 188cm reflector through an optical fiber to the entrance of HIDES. Under typical seeing condition observers can expect 1 magnitude better sensitivity with this system than that with the Coude optical train (#3). An iodine cell is also available that is prepared for the fiber-link system. Observers who plan to use the iodine cell should give a description about the usage in the item 16 (16. Requests Concerning Instruments) of the application form. Neither an image rotator nor an offset guider is available. Any questions concerning the fiber-feeding system can be directed to the instrument PI, Dr. Eiji Kambe (kambe@oao.nao.ac.jp).

#1: The mosaiced CCD camera was developed under a collaboration between Dr. H. Nakaya (NAOJ) and OAO.

#2: The wide-field acquisition scope which has been used since semester 2009B does not have any offset guiding function. The function is available only at the slit viewer.

#3: The mode we open for the observing in this semester is the one with a spectral resolving power ($\lambda/\Delta\lambda$) of 50,000. With this mode an improved sensitivity of 1 magnitude can be expected in the wavelength range from 4400 to 7500 Å compared to the one with the Coude optical train. However, there are two known limitations by the current system. One is that the highest achievable S/N would be around 1500. The other is that the improving factor in the bluer region is smaller than in the redder region. More information on the fiber-link system will be found in the following URL: <http://www.oao.nao.ac.jp/~hides/wiki/>.

*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/>). ISLE is not available in the next semester, 2013A, but the instrument will become available again in 2013B.

*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. KOOS is not available in the next semester, 2013A, but the instrument will become available again in 2013B.

***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. HBS was decommissioned at the end of 2012B. The instrument is no longer available for use at the OAO.

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

The OAO observing proposal application form is based on L^AT_EX. Please see the observatory web page (<http://www.oao.nao.ac.jp/en/>) for general information on open use observations. A proposal which does not follow the guidelines below may not be considered. If you encounter problems, please contact cfp-consult@oao.nao.ac.jp.

General Instructions:

- Download both (1) style file (oaoprop11a.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. Font size must be larger than 10 pt.
- Do not include figures or tables from page 1 to 4.
- 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 will 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 (via 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_2013a.tex`, `einstein_2013a_sj.pdf`, subject: `einstein_2013a`.
When you submit two or more proposals, the names of the files should be like `einstein_2013a_1`, `einstein_2013a_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.
important: Write the title of your observing program at the beginning of the SJ. On the other hand, 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.
- In SJ you may include colored figures and tables if necessary. Figures and tables must be clear and be easy to read for everyone: check whether numbers and axis labels are clear and large enough. Also, please check the application form and SJ can be correctly printable.
- Applicants, who require multiple semesters to accomplish their program, should describe "Overall observation plan" and "Plan for the next semester" in SJ. In addition, applicants, who have already observed in the same program, need to write "Current status of the program" in SJ.

Instructions for filling out the application form:

- **1. Category:** Write "N"(normal) which is the only category allowed for foreign investigators. Specify the attribute of your program, "N"(new) or "C"(continuation), in the next box.
- **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.
- **11. Instrument:** “1 HIDES-Slit” specifies observations at the conventional Coude focus using a mechanical slit, while “2 HIDES-Fiber” does those using an optical fiber feeding from the Cassegrain focus. One can choose both 1 and 2 at the same time. In that case, however, the reason should be given in “17. Technical Description.”
- **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. **In 2013A, the limited period from early May to early June is opened for observations.** 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.