

TELESCOPE TIME

Applying for Time

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In newsletter issue No. 6 (October 2002) we reported on the construction of the new 'long camera' for WYFFOS, the multi-object spectrograph used in conjunction with AF2 and INTEGRAL. It is a pleasure to report that this camera was successfully commissioned, in fact at the time of writing the final commissioning run is underway. First indications are that the camera is performing to specification, full details will appear on the AF2 web pages in due course. We currently use the two-chip EEV array with the long camera, which while it has excellent blue response, suffers from significant fringing in the red. We are actively pursuing the purchase of CCDs with good overall efficiency and fringing characteristics. When the array is used with AF2 the dispersion direction is aligned with the array such that one loses one central fibre and care should be taken to park this fibre when field configurations are performed. The new camera permits the placement of 150 fibres on the CCD array, and typically gives 4-pixel sampling per resolution element, equivalent to resolving powers of approximately 5000 and 1500 with the 1200R and 600B gratings respectively (depending on wavelength). When the long camera is used with INTEGRAL it is rotated by 90 degrees leading to gaps in wavelength space which need to be taken into account when defining a central wavelength.

The long-slit intermediate resolution infrared spectrograph, LIRIS, is offered in both imaging and long-slit spectroscopy modes. LIRIS in multi-slit mode is available only in collaboration with the instrument builders due to the very long lead time required with the mask creation and insertion into the cryostat. Prospective applicants for LIRIS in this mode should contact Arturo Manchado (amt@11.iac.es) in the first instance. In the current year further commissioning will take place during which the multislit mask operations are further fine-tuned. In addition, several technical improvements have to be verified on sky (e.g. new sandwich holders for the long slits), and a thorough quantification of the image quality will be performed. Presently it is only possible to use the low resolution grism ($\mathcal{R} \sim 1000$), the higher resolution spectroscopic mode ($\mathcal{R} \sim 3000$) and the polarimetric modes of this instrument are delayed pending purchase of the relevant gratings and prisms. Since the performance of LIRIS in imaging mode is very similar to that of INGRID, we do not plan to offer the latter at the Cassegrain focal station while LIRIS is operational.

Override observations of targets of opportunity are an increasingly important aspect of telescope operations. At any given time we have a number of active override programmes and, due to the nature of the time-split at ING between four separate TACs, the rules and restrictions applying

Important

DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

UK PATT and NL NFRA PC:
15 March, 15 September
SP CAT: **1 April, 1 October**
ITP: <http://www.iac.es/gabinete/cci/>

SEMESTERS

A: **1 February – 31 July**
B: **1 August – 31 January**

ONLINE INFORMATION ON APPLYING FOR TIME ON
ING TELESCOPES

<http://www.ing.iac.es/Astronomy/>
<http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/ING/Astronomy/>

to these programmes are rather complicated. Those interested in applying for such programmes should therefore familiarise themselves with the information on our web pages at <http://www.ing.iac.es/Astronomy/observing/overrides.html>. It may well be the case that a cross-TAC approach would make most efficient use of telescope time and maximise chances of a successful override campaign.

The WHT and INT are now part of the EU funded access programme managed under the auspices of Opticon. Applicants awarded time on these telescopes under the normal peer review processes, but who are not eligible for financial support from the telescopes' funding agencies, may apply to support under this access programme. The programme is funded to run from January 2004 until December 2008, and full details of the scheme can be found at <http://www.otri.iac.es/eno/>. ☐

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Telescope Time Awards Semester 2004A

Service proposals not included. For observing schedules please visit this web page: <http://www.ing.iac.es/ds/sched/>. University or institution of principal investigator between parentheses.

William Herschel Telescope

UK PATT

- Charles (Southampton). Determining system parameters of a Soft X-ray transient in outburst. **W/2004A/36**
- Charles (Southampton). The Mass Donor in SS43. **W/2004A/56**
- Harries (Exeter). Spectropolarimetry of symbiotic binaries. **W/2004A/6**
- Haswell (OU). Accretion Disc Precession in AM CVn. **W/2004A/49**
- Hodgkin (IoA). Spectroscopic Identification of Very Low-Mass Stars and Brown Dwarfs in Young Open Clusters. **W/2004A/54**

- Jarvis (Oxford). Quantifying the space density of radio-loud quasars at $z > 5$. **W/2004A/19**
- Jeffery (Armagh). PG1544+488 and other helium-rich subdwarfs: binaries, mergers or bizarre. **W/2004A/45**
- Keenan (QUB). The space density of B-type stars in the Galactic halo. **W/2004A/3**
- Lucas (Hertfordshire). PLANETPOL polarimetry of Tau Boo Ab. **W/2004A/27**
- Marsh (Warwick). ULTRACAM observations of detached white dwarf/M dwarf binary stars. **W/2004A/35**
- Meikle (ICL). Direct detection and study of supernovae in nuclear starbursts. **W/2002B/56 LT**
- Meikle (ICL). Detailed study of the physics of nearby Type Ia Supernovae. **W/2003B/2 LT**