



# NEWSLETTER

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## NEWSLETTER #12

Latest updates for the ORP Consortium

Dear colleagues,

We are delighted to send you the now traditional ORP newsletter. As always, we've included the latest news from our Pilot.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to remind you of two important deadlines for ORP. Firstly, the Pilot will be present at the European Astronomical Society Annual Meeting in Kraków, Poland. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet a number of us, while promoting our activities among our colleagues. We are also very pleased to announce that the next ORP Consortium Meeting will be held from November 21 to 23 at ESO, Munich, Germany. We hope to see many of you there, and don't forget to already note the date (registrations will be open in September).

We sincerely hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

Stéphane Basa, on behalf of the EMT

## Current ORP TNA Opportunities Open

ORP Transnational Access opportunities presently open:

- [European ARC Network](#) : **No specific deadline**

## Observing time at the Nordic Optical Telescope

The Nordic Optical Telescope (NOT; [www.not.iac.es](http://www.not.iac.es)) is a 2.56 m telescope operated jointly by Aarhus University, the University of Turku and the University of Oslo, representing

Denmark, Finland and Norway, the University of Iceland and Stockholm University at the Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos, La Palma, Spain. In this call, the NOT offers the opportunity to get access to observing time in return for a contribution to the operational cost.

The workhorse instruments ([www.not.iac.es/instruments/](http://www.not.iac.es/instruments/)) at the NOT are an optical imager and low-resolution spectrograph (ALFOSC), a NIR imager and low-resolution spectrograph (NOTCam), and a fibre fed echelle spectrograph (FIES) which offers resolutions up to  $\sim 67,000$ , and is located in a separate building in a controlled environment, and provides a radial-velocity stability of  $\sim 4$  m/s. A further upgrade of the spectrograph, with the aim of improving the radial velocity stability to  $\sim 1$  m/s, is in progress.

Beyond classical visitor mode, the NOT offers (queue) service mode observing and provides a wide range of options for flexible scheduling through Target-of-Opportunity programs and/or monitoring programs on any time-scale (from hours to years). The NOT also provides dedicated facilities for both on-site and remote observing courses.

The observing conditions, instrumentation and observing modes offered at the NOT allow state-of-the-art observations, at the forefront of many areas in modern astronomical research, as is also shown by its strong publication record ([www.not.iac.es/news/publications/](http://www.not.iac.es/news/publications/)).

The call is open to all, be it projects, research groups, institutes or larger (national) communities. The scale of any agreement can range from small observing time allocations in a single semester, up to more extensive allocations over various years (possibly as a full member).

For any questions and/or more detailed information, please contact the NOT Director Dr. Thomas Augsteijn ([director@not.iac.es](mailto:director@not.iac.es)).

## NEON Observing School Application Opens

The 2023 NEON Observing School will be hosted by the Astrophysical Observatory of Asiago in Northern Italy on 29 October - 10 November 2023. The school that is funded by ORP provides hands-on observing experience on professional telescopes. Deadline for applications is 11 August 2023.

The [2023 NEON Observing School school](#) is mainly aimed for PhD students in astronomy who do not have prior observing experience with professional telescopes. MSc students in the late stages of their thesis work and young PostDocs can also be considered. The first half of the school comprises lectures, and planning and carrying out observations. The lectures include, among other topics, modern telescopes, detectors and observing techniques. The second half of the school is dedicated to group work on reducing and analysing the obtained observations, with students presenting their results at the end of the school.

The local costs (accommodation and lunches) are covered by the ORP project, and some limited travel support is also available.

The deadline for applications is on 11 August 2023, and applicants will be notified about the selection in early September.

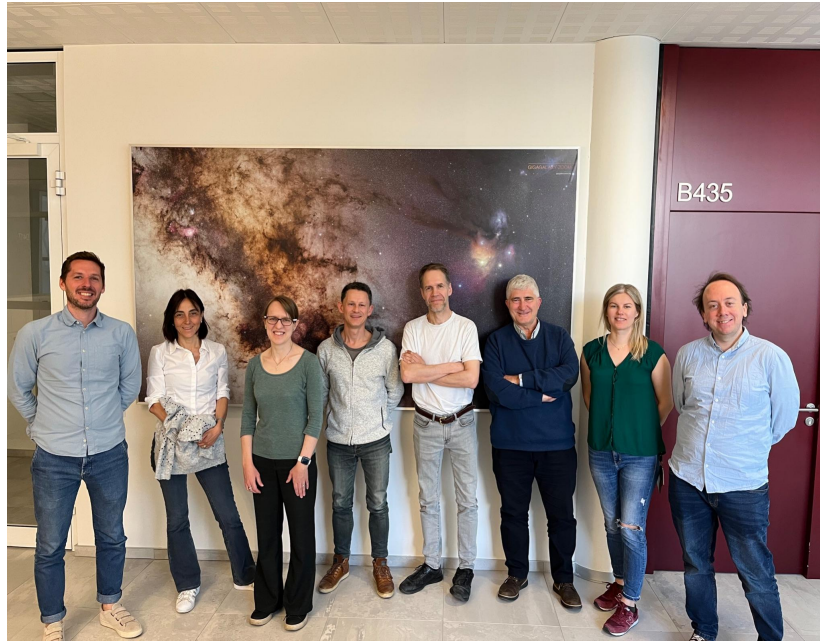
More information on the school and the application form can be found on the [2023 NEON Observing School school website](#).



**Image:** © 2018 NEON Observing School at the Astrophysical Observatory of Asiago. Credit: NEON Schools / M.A. Lara Lopez

## TAC meeting: review of the 2023B semester proposal submissions

On 10 and 11 May 2023 the optical trans-national access (TNA) common telescope allocation committee (CTAC) met in Vilnius, Lithuania to review the 2023B semester proposal submissions. The CTAC were pleased to be able to award time to 31 of the 54 proposals received, which is the highest number of proposals funded in one semester so far. The proposals covered a wide range of topics and, consistent with past calls, included many projects for exoplanet, time domain and stellar populations science. This is the first time that ORP has offered long term proposal status and three projects were selected for long term funding in the TNA program.



**Image:** © Optical trans-national access CTAC - semester 2023B. From the left: Dan Dicken, Paola Severgnini, Elmé Breedt, Emeric Lefloch, Kari Nilsson, Ismael Perez Fournon, Edita Stonkutė and Tom Wilson

## ORP Instrumentation School in Milan

From 17 to 26 of May, at the Astronomical Observatory of Brera, Milan, the [instrumentation school with the support of ORP](#) was organized. The school focused on astronomical instruments dedicated to integral-field spectroscopy and the goal was to produce a 'Phase A' study of this kind of instruments so important in modern astronomy and astrophysics.

The school was organized in lectures by many experts in different fields (astrophysics, optics, mechanics, electronics, management and others) and group activity with dedicated tutors.

24 students from many countries, a perfect mix of astronomers and engineers, men and women attended the school with enthusiasm, curiosity and determination.

They had the possibility to discuss and interact with the lectures, the tutors, between themselves. They played together in building paper based spectrographs, worked in the optical laboratories, discovered ancient astronomical books and surely found new friends and scientific connections.

At the end, they presented their four instruments with an impressive level of detail:

- SpecPhaws (Spectrograph for Pioneer Extended Characterization of PHA Asteroids and Wide-area Satellites);
- SPAGHETTI (SPectral Analysis to GHET The Imbhs);
- GLOW (Galaxies with medium-Low resolution at Optical and near-infrared Wavelength)
- SWING (Spatially-resolved Without wide-field IFS for Nebular and Globular clusters)



**SOC:** Andrea Bianco (INAF, Italy). Heidi Korhonen (ESO), Giorgio Pariani (INAF, Italy), Marco Riva (INAF, Italy); Secretary: Lorella Galliani (INAF, Italy)



Image: © Andrea Bianco / INAF

## ATMO ACCESS - General Assembly

On 29, 30 and 31 March, the ATMO ACCESS group held its annual general meeting in Valencia (Spain). ATMO ACCESS is one of the three pilot projects funded by the EC together with the NFFA group and ORP.

The EMT was invited to present the ORP, its views on the future and the challenges facing the pilots.

More info here : <https://www.atmo-access.eu/event/atmo-access-general-assembly-2023/>

## 14th Gaia Science Alerts workshop and the ORP Time-Domain meeting in Malta

The next ORP workshop on Time-Domain, transients and Gaia Science Alerts will be held in Valletta on the island of Malta, and online from 2-5 October 2023.

The Warsaw University organizes the workshop in collaboration with the Universities of Cambridge, Manchester and local collaborators from Flarestar Observatory from Malta.

The primary goal of the meeting is to maintain the networking activities around the telescopes coordinated by ORP's WP18 and within JA2.2 involved in common optical and

radio time-domain observations. We invite partners offering telescope time as well as scientists who used or are interested in using our system. The advances in our [BHTOM](#) system will be presented together with an opportunity for hands-on practical sessions.

More details and registration are provided on the [webpage](#).

## Subscribe to the ORP External Newsletter

The external ORP newsletter is aimed at the international astronomical community to publicise the framework and activities of the project, and in particular draw attention to the benefits of bringing together the optical and radio astronomical ground-based communities. **Subscription for the newsletter is available [here](#).**

Please help us spread the update to reach out to as many people as possible!

## Deliverables - Milestones

- D18.1 [UCAM] : Report of the independent review board
- M7 [UDUR] : CANARY programme review

## ORP Activities

During the period 15 March - 15 June 2023 the following activities have been organized:

**JA2.2 Seamless Performance: Time-Domain Multi-Facility & Multi-Frequency Access to Research Infrastructures** - The group met on 15 March 2023 at the JA2 meeting in Berlin and online on 26 April 2023 for the regular update meeting. It was decided to submit a short proposal for the EVN/e-MERLIN call for proposals in June 2023 to briefly check for compact radio emission of a sample of optically selected variable AGN (Gaia light curves). Some of the sources have been detected in radio, but it's not sure the emission is compact enough to be seen on VLBI scales. Before being eligible for requesting follow-up/ monitoring observations, the EVN needs to ascertain the existence of such compact radio emission. The possibility of involving REM data on the proposal's targets would be checked. The development of EVN TOM Toolkit is progressing well. The VEX file generated by the EVN TOM backend runs well at the Toruń radio telescope. The work on BHTOM features and users is progressing well. For the improvement of the calibration of photometry, a colour term was added to the calibration procedure. The zero point of any photometric point which is added to BHTOM is calculated together with colour terms to better calibrate the photometry. Concerning REM, the email server was set up and works, still under test. It would be connected soon to the system for the first test for the flow of data.

**JA4 Training:** The group met on 21 March 2023 for an update on the progress.

The first synergy school, the *ORP Proposal Writing School* took place online on four Mondays during the time period 20 February- 20 March 2023. The initiative was very successful and attracted 190 applications. 30 students from 18 countries participated in the event. A debriefing will follow, but the organisers already envision having a similar school in the future.

The group decided:

- to check the current budget status and check what training events will take place for the remainder of ORP - discussions on possibilities budget re-assignment will be done at the next meeting
- the creation of an ORP subpage in the ORP website as platform for school material
- to collect ideas for training events after the end of the ORP project (2026-2030) - discussion on this will also take place at the next meeting

## Upcoming ORP-related Activities & Events

19 June 2023 – Budapest/HU – [11th VLT Interferometry School](#)

19 June 2023 – online – Radio [TA/VA group](#)

22 June 2023 – online – [JA4 Radio Training group](#)

29 June 2023 – online – [JA2.2 group](#)

10-14 July 2023 – Krakow, Poland – [EAS2023](#)

04-08 September 2023 – Manchester/UK – [European ALMA school](#)

02-04 October 2023 – Valletta/ on the island of Malta/MT – [ORP workshop on Time-Domain, transients and Gaia Science Alerts](#)



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