

# Report on the virtual CTAC meeting Oct 25/26 2021

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## Summary

The 2022A common call for the Trans-National Access programme within the OPTICON-Radionet Pilot (ORP) opened in early August 2021 and closed at 23:59 on 31 August 2021. The call was published here: <https://www.orp-h2020.eu/optical-call-2022a>. Fifty-two (52) proposals were submitted. This was in-between the 2020 and 2021 calls (43, 47, 60, and 57 for 2020A, 2020B, 2021A, and 2021B respectively). One (1) proposal was not discussed as they had used an out of date template. The remaining fifty-one (51) were all evaluated, discussed, and ranked.

The demand for telescopes was also not evenly spread, but not wildly different than previous semesters. There were no proposals for Aristarchos (again) or TBL, while the remaining telescopes were all requested. This time, only three (3) telescopes were oversubscribed, the usual suspects were the TNG, the NOT, and the AAT with a factor of 1.2, 2.3 and 1.7, respectively. There were proposals in every science topic and we were able to grant time for at least 1 proposal in each science topic.

The oversubscription, calculated in terms of money, was about a factor of 2.5. This pressure factor is slightly lower than previous semesters. On average, a proposal requested telescope time for about 17400,- Euro, although there is large spread between different individual proposals.

Time could be allocated for 22/52 proposals. After a highly competitive semester in 2021B, the cut-off was again at more reasonable levels. The cutoff was clear in both the absolute and reweighted scores with scores enough apart to draw the line.

The CTAC wanted to make sure that the ratio of the approved and non-approved proposals for CEE and non-CEE countries was comparable without compromising the quality of the accepted proposals. While a lot better than last semester, there is still a divide between the two sets of proposals.

## Details

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the CTAC-meeting to discuss the proposals for the semester 2022A was still held online, hosted from Edinburgh. The CTAC was complete with 7 members and consisted of Despina Hatzidimitriou (Athens), Renata Minkevičiūtė (Vilnius), Roser Pello (Marseille), Victor Béjar (Tenerife), Kari Nilsson (Turku), Leonardo Tartaglia (Padova), and Annelies Mortier (Cambridge, Chair). The optical TNA Work Package leader, John Davies (UKATC, Edinburgh) was in attendance to advise on technical issues and record the meeting outcomes but did not participate in the scientific discussions. This was the same group as last semester.

One proposal was disqualified prior to the meeting as they had used an out-of-date template. All other proposals were discussed, per topic and following the preliminary ranking within a topic. Topics were done in opposite order as last semester. Overall, the evaluation of the proposals was smooth.

Table 1 illustrates the demand for each of the telescopes. Three telescopes were oversubscribed. However, all proposals ranked in the top third received the appropriate telescope time. Out of all requested telescopes, observation time was awarded to use TNG, NOT, LCO, AAT, CFHT, and CAHA35.

Telescope	$N_{\text{prop}}$	Requested time	Available time	Oversubscription
NOT	13	22.6n	10n	2.3
SALT	2	15hr	100hr	
TBL	0	0n	7n	
OHP	1	10n	10n	
CFHT	6	3.7n	4n	
AAT	8	26.1n	20n	1.7
TCS	1	1.3n	14n	
TNG	9	12n	9n	1.2
LT	3	38h	50h	
LCO	12	313h	400h	
REM	3	120h	300h	
CAHA35	3	5.5n	10n	
CAHA22	3	9.5n	10n	
Aristarchos	0	0n	20n	

Table 1: Statistics on the number of proposals and requested/available time per telescope. Note that some proposals asked for more than one telescope.

As in previous calls, the distribution of the proposals between the astrophysical topics was skewed towards exoplanet, stars and stellar populations and time domain science, as seen in Table 2. This is somewhat reflected in the skewed distribution of requested telescopes as some are more suited to study these topics.

Topic	N <sub>prop</sub>	N <sub>success</sub>	Success rate
Solar System	3	1	33%
Exoplanets	12	5	42%
Stars and stellar population	14	3	21%
CSM and star formation	2	1	50%
Low-z Universe	2	1	50%
High-z Universe	4	3	75%
Time Domain Astronomy	15	8	53%

Table 2: Statistics on the number of proposals requested/offered per science topic.

The number of approved proposals ( $22/52 = 42.3\%$ ) roughly reflects the oversubscription in terms of the budget of 350 kEuro. No topic was significantly more successful than others, though it is noted that this is based on low-number statistics. Within the most popular topics (exoplanets, stars, time domain), success rates varied between 21% and 53%. This is slightly wider than last time. In contrast with previous times, all topics had at least one proposal funded.

Proposals were submitted with PIs from 15 different countries, of which 9 countries were successful in getting time. As per usual, the UK was most active, with 16 submitted proposals, which is similar to previous semesters. UK proposals had a success rate of 43.8%, perfectly in line with the general success rate. Germany was the second most active, with 7 submitted proposals. They had a stunning success rate of 85.7% which stands out in terms of the general success rate.

The CTAC continued to specifically motivate astronomers from CEE countries to apply, resulting in 9 submitted proposals (17%), which is a bit below the last call, and still low overall. Proposals from CEE countries had a success rate of 22% (2/9) while the non-CEE proposal success rate was 46.5%. While this is already three times better than last time, the CTAC continues to look at ways to help adjust this.

## What to expect for 2022B

No substantial changes are expected for the upcoming semesters yet. A new proposal tool is in preparation, but may not be ready in time for 2022B.

No members are expected to leave the CTAC for the next semester. A replacement for John Davies is being hired and both will attend the next CTAC meeting.

Careful and detailed feedback to all proposers is being prepared and will be distributed by mid-November. The next call will open by early February 2022. The location for the next CTAC meeting (late April 2022) is being discussed and will be at a CTAC member's home institution.