

# Access to VLT by non-ESO members

From: VLT Call for Proposals for Period 71

(<http://www.eso.org/observing/proposals/vlt-cp.pdf> )

## “9.6 Non-member State Proposals

A Non-member State Proposal is a proposal where at least 2/3 of the proposers are not affiliated to ESO member state institutes independently of the nationality of the proposers. Non-member state proposals are submitted in the usual way, but a separate set of criteria are used for the review of such proposals (Section 11.1)...

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For non-member state proposals (Section 9.6) the following criteria will be taken into account:

- The required telescope/instrumentation is not available at any other observatory accessible to the applicants.
- If an ESO member state proposal and a non-member state proposal are rated equally, preference will be given to the ESO member state proposal.”

# Data Availability

- Rule #1: VLTI follows VLT policy in every respect. (*i.e.* if in doubt, ask experienced ESO observers)
- All commissioning data released regularly *i.e.* every ~3 months through the ESO archive.
  - Technical data can be handed out on demand
  - Scientific data only available through the archive, in particular no publication allowed before the data is public!
- Science data obtained during shared risk science programmes given to the PI and put on the web at the same time
- All other science programmes (OPC time and guaranteed time) handled like UT programmes

# Interferometry centers

- JMMC, NEVEC, FRINGE
- Instrument teams: VINCI, MIDI, AMBER
- Students and other collaborators at Paranal for commissioning

# Collaborations with ESO

- Individual scientific collaborations can take place in the usual way scientists collaborate.
  - However: ESO is not a funding agency.
    - *E.g.* IONIC was not funded to develop integrated optics but to deliver a beam combiner for VINCI
  - Science instruments (remember Rule #1):
    - Call for Ideas to the community,
    - decision on which instrument to pursue,
    - have it built by an institute/consortia/company
- No ESO internal decision but involvement of the community through the governing bodies (here in particular the STC)