

CALL FOR GRAVITY SCIENCE VERIFICATION PROPOSALS

Deadlines

Deadline for SV proposals: 25 March 2016

SV Run I: 15-23 June 2016

SV Run II: 15-23 September 2016

GRAVITY, the new K band four beam spectro-interferometric combiner of the Very Large Telescope Interferometer is currently being commissioned. Its primary science goal is to observe the close environment of the Galactic Center Super-Massive Black hole. However it has been designed to cover many other science opportunities. GRAVITY is fully described at:

<http://www.eso.org/sci/facilities/paranal/instruments/gravity.html>

GRAVITY will be offered to the community for Science Verification (SV) for 9 Auxiliary Telescope (AT) nights in June 2016 and 9 AT nights in September 2016. All astronomers are invited to participate in this unique opportunity to obtain early science with GRAVITY and thus to demonstrate its scientific capabilities.

Proposals will be reviewed by an internal panel and allocated time on the basis of scientific merit and feasibility, as well as in the demonstrated ability of the Principle Investigators to deliver results on a timely basis.

The observations will be conducted in Service Mode by a dedicated team of ESO astronomers. The GRAVITY SV team will be able to assist the successful PI's in the preparation and optimisation of the OB's on a best effort basis only.

The latest version of the GRAVITY data reduction pipeline will be available for reduction of the SV data and the SV team will try - on a best efforts basis - to provide pipeline-reduced data to all SV PIs. Proposers are reminded that all SV data are made public worldwide immediately after passing the usual quality control checks. This will also apply to data processed by the SV team.

Please read the GRAVITY documentation established for CfP98 carefully.

Please use the special LaTeX template that can be downloaded from the GRAVITY science verification web site:

<http://www.eso.org/sci/activities/vltsv/gravitysv.html>.

Proposals may also be prepared using any suitable text editor following the guidelines of the LaTeX template, but please send us **only the pdf output** and please do not send finding charts at this time. The SV team will request these in due course.

Applications should be sent by EMAIL to <mailto:gravitysv@eso.org> not later than March 25th 2016, 18:00 CEST.