

La Silla Observing School (2024)



# The art of proposal writing: from idea to submission

*Claudia Paladini*

ESO Operations Staff Astronomer

Credit: Yuri  
Beletsky



# Starting point



You have a science case requiring new observations

**Which technique?**

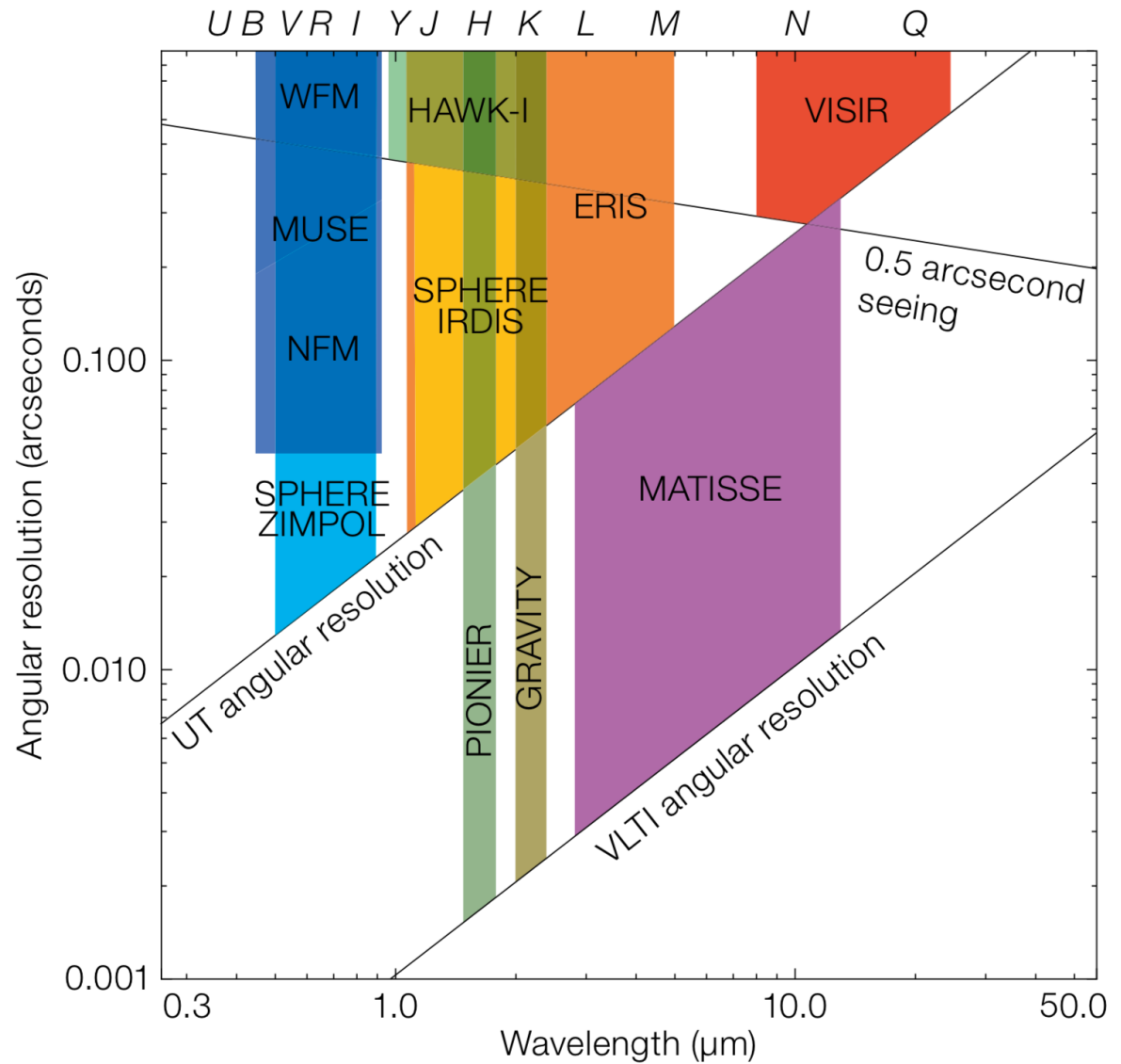
**Which instrument?**

**When to apply?**



Credit: Vichare

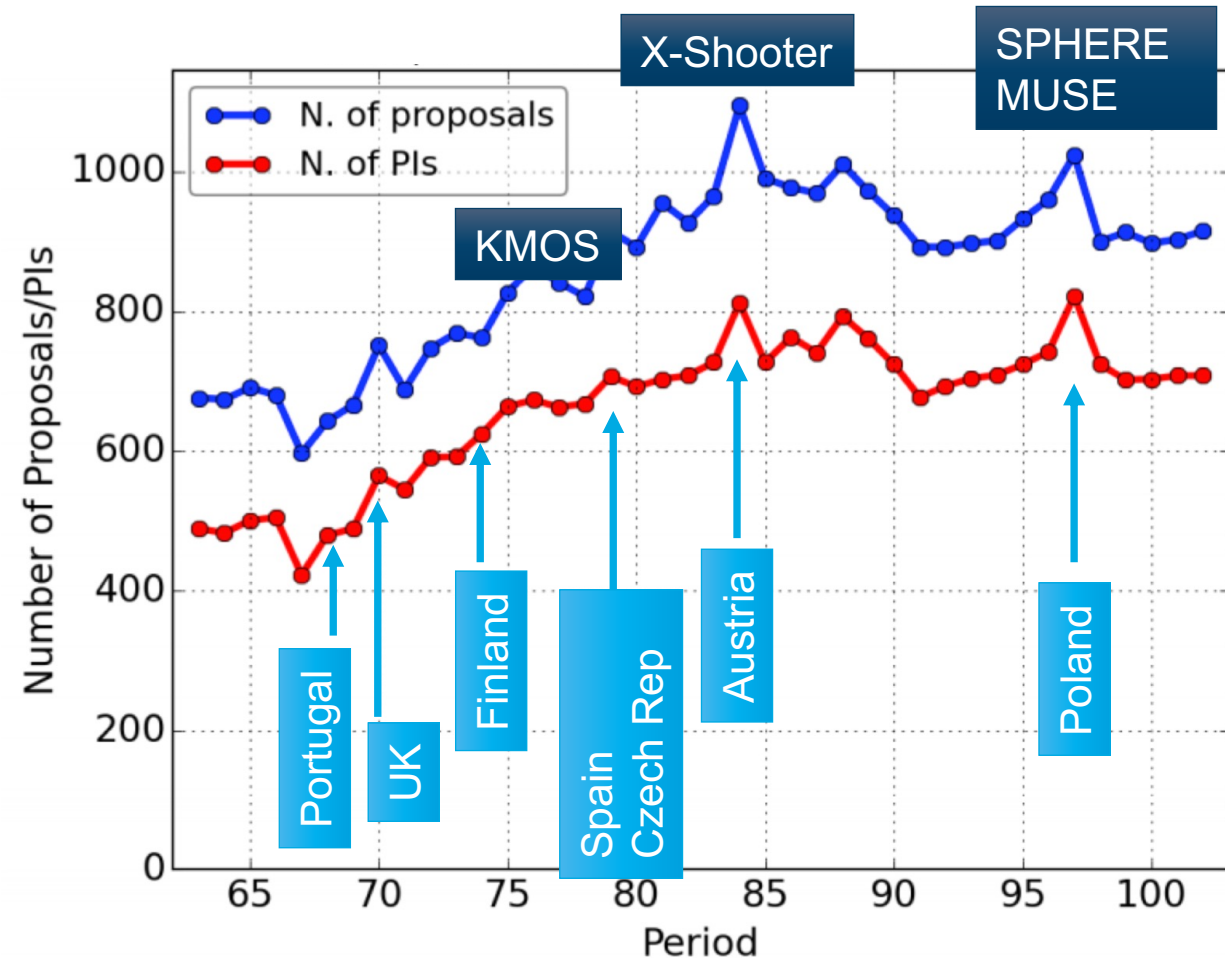
# The feasibility



Credits: ESO Messenger

# You are not the only one with an idea

- Stabilizing ~ 950 proposals
- ~700 Principal Investigators
- ~3170 nights asked in the last 4 years (1070 scheduled)
- ~800 Proposal submitted in the last 24H!





*“Users are encouraged to submit proposals whose targets are observable from early October till November (around  $RA=0h$ ) as this range is usually undersubscribed.”*

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Check:

Forecast of telescope pressure

Any-weather programme statistics

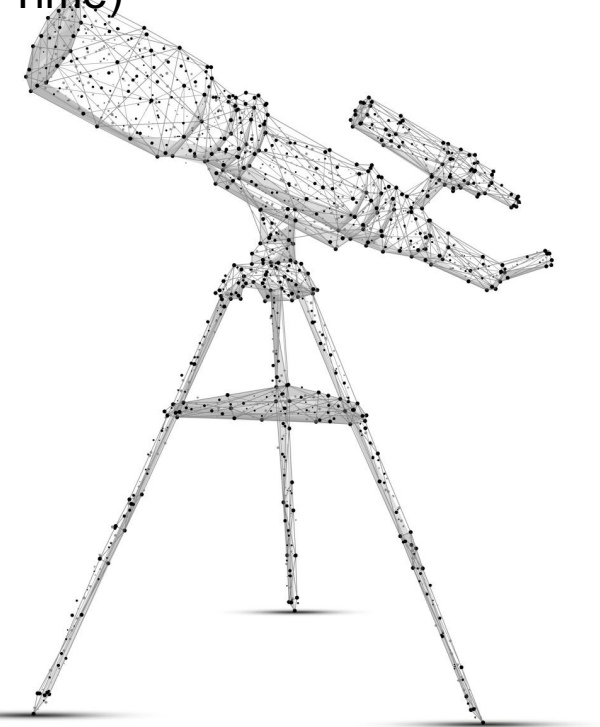


# Different types of proposal @ESO

- Target of Opportunity – **ToO** (events predictable in a generic sense)
- Large Program – **LP** (> 100h, only even periods from P104)
- Guarantee Time Obs - **GTO** (you build telescope/instrument, payment in Observing Time)
- Normal Programs - **NP** (typically this is your proposal)
- Monitoring programs - **MP** (< 100 h, lasting for up to 4 periods)
- Director Discretionary Time (~ 5%) – **DDT** => Can be asked at any time.

## When do you ask for DDT?

- Unpredictable ToO
- Proposal requesting observations on a hot scientific topic
- When your previous observations miss one data point for a breakthrough result



# Distributed peer-review vs Observing proposal committee



All PIs of proposals requesting total time **< 16h** are assigned to DPR  
exception made for:

- Proposals including at least one ToO run;
- Calibration proposals;
- Joint VLT-XMM and VLT/I-ALMA proposals.

All the other proposals go through the standard OPC committee





## Distributed peer-review rules

- PI (or a delegated PI) of proposal qualifying for DPR accepts to review 10 proposal *by the deadline*
- Failing to provide the reviews *by the deadline* will lead to the automatic *rejection* of the proposal/s submitted by the given PI/dPI;
- Non-disclosure agreement applies
- Conflict must be declared

# Before the OPC meeting

Panel members receive detailed instructions on the process and their role

All panel members grade all proposals and submit grades and comments to ESO

~ 40 proposal  
on a subject different from your  
to read during your free time  
(community service)



# Conflict of interest



Should be declared by the referee one week after receiving the proposals

If detected only at the meeting – member does not vote (leave the room)

*People normally follow this rule*





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*People normally follow this rule*





# The OPC meeting



Each proposal has 1 principal referee + full sub-panel

Previously to the meeting the referees send their marks and comments to the panel

Meeting lasts for one week

- 2 days for panels meetings
- 3 days for OPC member final ranking

Time spent with each proposal

- Before panel typical time is ~ 20 min
- During panel discussions typical time is ~ 5-7 min



# How the referee grades



Sufficient background/context for the non-expert?



Are previous results clearly presented?



Are the proposed observations and the Immediate Objectives pertinent to the background description?



Is the sample selection clearly described, or, if a single target, is it justified?



Are the instrument modes, and target location(s) specified clearly?



Will the proposed observations add knowledge to the astronomical field?

## Recipe For Success

### Ingredients:

- 1 Teaspoon of Ideas
- 1/2 Cup of Goodwill
- 1 Pinch of Positivity
- 3/4 Cup of Imagination
- 1 lb of Leadership
- 2 Spoonfuls of Teamwork
- 1 Cup of Market Vision
- 3 Tablespoons of Challenge  
and 1 Bag of Hope!





# European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere

Observing Programmes Office • Karl-Schwarzschild-Strasse 2 • D-85748 Garching bei München • email: [opo@eso.org](mailto:opo@eso.org) • Tel: +49 89 3200 6473



Cycle: P108  
Type: Large  
Status: Valid  
Printed: 10 Jun 2021

## APPLICATION FOR OBSERVING TIME


### IMPORTANT NOTICE

By submitting this proposal, the PI takes full responsibility for the content of the proposal, in particular with regard to the names of CoIs and the agreement to act according to the ESO policy and regulations, should observing time be granted.

**Calls** ~1<sup>st</sup> March and ~1<sup>st</sup> September

**Deadlines** are ~31<sup>st</sup> March and ~1<sup>st</sup> October

(check on the [ESO webpage](#), ongoing discussion to move it to 1 call per year)



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	✘	🍷	🍷

# Rule 1 RTFM

**Read This  
Fantastic  
Manual**



**ESO Call for Proposals – P112**

Proposal Deadline: 28 March 2023, 12:00 noon CEST



## Rule 2 RTFM

as well as the  
instrument  
manuals and  
instrument  
webpages



**ESO Call for Proposals – P112**

Proposal Deadline: 28 March 2023, 12:00 noon CEST

## **Rule 3**

**Do not start writing the proposal the evening before the deadline.**



**This is BAD.**



**Rule 4**  
**Follow rules of  
anonymization**



Major violations are flagged to the Director General and lead to the disqualification of the proposals

## Rule 5

- Understand the system
- Read the Call for proposal
- Read Science Operation policy
- Read User group minutes
- Discuss with ESO national representative

*Don't be afraid of contacting ESO Help-Desk and/or the VLTI expertise centers, their job is to assist you*



**Rule 6**  
**Ask a  
colleague  
from another  
field to read  
your proposal**

Strictly connected  
with Rule 3



# The ESOFORM

Based on the esoform-112

Be aware of changes from one call to another!



**ESO Call for Proposals – P112**

Proposal Deadline: 28 March 2023, 12:00 noon CEST



# The phase 1

A screenshot of a web browser window showing the login page for the Phase 1 Proposal Submission. The browser's address bar displays 'eso.org'. The page title is 'Login - Phase 1 Proposal Submission'. The login form includes a 'Username' field with the placeholder text 'username', a 'Password' field with the placeholder text 'password', and a blue 'Login' button at the bottom.

Remember to register and get used to the tool well before the deadline!

[www.eso.org/pi1demo](http://www.eso.org/pi1demo)

# The phase 1



Phase 1 1.0.0beta62 Proposal Submission ? Help DEMO ENVIRONMENT Phase 1/2 Tutorial Account

Your Proposals [New Proposal](#)

Sort by: [cycle](#) [pi](#)

- + Ma demande
- + test
- + vitor
- + Test of DDT P104
- + 001 Proposal to play
- + 000 Example for beginners DDT1 ..
- + 003 VLTI example

### Proposals

Programme ID	Cycle	Title	Abstract	Status	PI	Actions
<i>to be assigned</i>	P105 · Cycle P105 ProposalSubmission	<a href="#">Ma demande</a>		Draft	Phase 1/2 Tutorial Account	<a href="#">Delete</a> <a href="#">PDF</a>
<i>to be assigned</i>	P105 · Cycle P105 ProposalSubmission	<a href="#">test</a>		Draft	Phase 1/2 Tutorial Account	<a href="#">Delete</a> <a href="#">PDF</a>
<i>to be assigned</i>	P105 · Cycle P105 ProposalSubmission	<a href="#">vitor</a>		Draft	Phase 1/2 Tutorial Account	<a href="#">Delete</a> <a href="#">PDF</a>
<i>to be assigned</i>	P104 · DDT P104 ProposalSubmission	<a href="#">Test of DDT P104</a>		Draft	Phase 1/2 Tutorial Account	<a href="#">Delete</a> <a href="#">PDF</a>
<i>to be assigned</i>	P103 · DDT103p1 Inactive	<a href="#">001 Proposal to play</a>		Invalid	Dr. Johannes Bach	<a href="#">PDF</a>
<i>to be assigned</i>	P103 · DDT103p1 Inactive	<a href="#">000 Example for beginners DDT104</a>		Invalid	Dr. Olivier R. Hainaut - OPERATIONS	<a href="#">PDF</a>
<i>to be assigned</i>	P105 · Eng P105 ProposalSubmission	<a href="#">003 VLTI example</a>		Draft	Dr. Olivier R. Hainaut - OPERATIONS	<a href="#">PDF</a>



# The phase 1

## Add Proposal

Proposal Title

My MATISSE proposal

Cycle

Cycle P105

Programme Type

- select programme type -

- ✓ Normal
- GTO
- Monitoring
- Calibration

✕ Cancel

✓ Create Proposal





# The phase 1

Phase 1 1.0.Obeta62 | Proposal Submission | Help | DEMO ENVIRONMENT | Phase 1/2 Tutorial Account

## Your Proposals [New Proposal](#)

Sort by: cycle x pi x

- + Ma demande
- My MATISSE proposal
  - Summary
  - Title & Abstract
  - Category
  - Investigators
  - Rationale
  - Targets
  - Runs
  - Targets & Runs
  - Observations
  - Remarks & Justifications
  - Awarded & Future Time Requests
  - Previous Usage
  - Applicants' Publications
- + test
- + vitor
- + Test of DDT P104
- + 001 Proposal to play
- + 000 Example for beginners DDT1..
- + 003 VLTl example

## APPLICATION FOR OBSERVING TIME

[Clone](#) [Help](#) [PDF](#) [Delete](#)

Programme ID: *to be assigned* · Programme Type: Normal · Cycle: Cycle P105 · Status: **Draft**

By submitting this proposal, the PI takes full responsibility for the content of the proposal, in particular with regard to the names of Cols and the agreement to act according to the ESO policy and regulations, should observing time be granted.

### TITLE: My MATISSE proposal

#### ⚠ Checklist

The following issues must be resolved prior to submission of the proposal.

- Define at least one observing run.
- Attach a Scientific Rationale in PDF format.
- The input field 'Abstract' must be filled. If not relevant, please type in n/a.
- The input field 'Special Remarks' must be filled. If not relevant, please type in n/a.
- The input field 'Lunar Phase and Constraints Justification' must be filled. If not relevant, please type in n/a.
- The input field 'Time Justification' must be filled. If not relevant, please type in n/a.
- The input field 'Telescope Justification' must be filled. If not relevant, please type in n/a.
- The input field 'Observing Mode Justification' must be filled. If not relevant, please type in n/a.
- The input field 'Calibration Request' must be filled. If not relevant, please type in n/a.
- The input field 'Duplication with ESO Science Archive' must be filled. If not relevant, please type in n/a.
- The input field 'GTO & Survey Target Duplication Justification' must be filled. If not relevant, please type in n/a.
- Select one Category.
- Total telescope time 0.0h must be at least 0.1h.

### ABSTRACT [Edit](#)

### SCIENTIFIC CATEGORY [Edit](#)

- Summary
- Title & Abstract**
- Category
- Investigators
- Rationale
- Targets
- Runs
- Targets Runs
- Observations

## Proposal: My MATISSE proposal

Proposal Title

19 of 120 char

My MATISSE proposal

Abstract

26 of 1000 char

This is the proposal title

### Title and abstract obey to the normal considerations

- *Do not be too generic / too specific*
- *No previous knowledge needed*
- *Do not use fancy words*
- *Not too long*
- *Do not overrate your project*
- *Be catchy!*



## Proposal: My MATISSE proposal

Proposal Title

19 of 120 char

My MATISSE proposal

Abstract

26 of 1000 char

[wTA](#) >

This is the proposal title|

1. *The big picture*
2. *Why?*
3. *What we would like to do and its connection to the big picture (central problem)*
4. *The (breakthrough) expected outcome of the observations*

A companion interacting with the circumstellar environment (CSE) is the most accepted explanation for the presence of asymmetric planetary nebulae (PN). In the previous phase of stellar evolution, on the asymptotic giant branch (AGB), evidence for this interaction was observed only in the CSEs of a handful of objects. To close the gap between the AGB and the PN phase we propose to image with VLT/PIONIER the environment of  $\pi 1$  Gru which is close to the tip of the AGB. Herschel far infra-red images reveal an asymmetric wind morphology, while an analysis of the Hipparcos Intermediate Astrometric Data (IAD) supports the presence of a close companion. The proposed observations will allow to determine the position of the companion and the precise separation from the AGB star, which is needed to model the binary interaction.



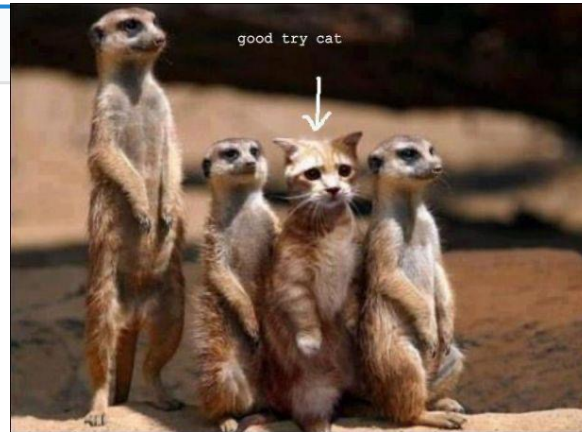
# What kind of science are you doing?

⚠ Please select 1 category.

## 🔍 Scientific Category

🔍 Collapse all   🔍 Expand all

Selected Category



### Available Scientific Keywords

- ▶ COSMOLOGY
- ▶ GALAXIES
- ▶ INTERSTELLAR MEDIUM (ISM), NEBULAE
- ▶ PLANETARY SYSTEMS
- ▶ STARS
- ▶ THE GALAXY
- ▶ THE SUN

## Categories

- *Will define who is going to read/judge your paper*



# Your team

Your Proposals [New Proposal](#)

Sort by: cycle x pi x ▾

+ Ma demande

- My MATISSE proposal

- Summary
- Title & Abstract
- Category
- Investigators**
- Rationale
- Targets
- Runs
- Targets & Runs
- Observations
- Remarks & Justifications
- Awarded & Future Time Requests
- Previous Usage
- Applicants' Publications

## Proposal: My MATISSE proposal [Help](#)

**i** You are **Principal Investigator** of this proposal. You can add Investigators by entering their complete email address. All Investigators must be registered in the [ESO User Portal](#). Please note that for the testing purposes of the p1demo environment we have created two "test-users" and these are the only ones you can add: [esouserp101@gmail.com](mailto:esouserp101@gmail.com) and [esouserp102@gmail.com](mailto:esouserp102@gmail.com)

### Investigators

Role	Name	Email	Institute	Country	Actions
PI	Phase 1/2 Tutorial Account	52052@nodomain.net	ESO Headquarters Garching	ESO	

Investigators: remind them to register to the ESO portal!

**BUILD YOUR TEAM:** choose your Cols thinking about the science that you want to do!

## 7. Description of the proposed programme

A – Scientific Rationale: Scientific rationale: scientific background of the project, pertinent references; previous work plus justification for present proposal.



### “Sell” your story!

Similar form to a paper introduction but simpler (remember panel composition!)

The importance of the work in the field at large (sometimes very large, like for LP) should be made clear

1. Why do we care?
2. What are the important open questions?
3. What are you going to address?
4. What is the important missing piece?

**=> Answer: your observations**



**B – Immediate Objective:** Immediate objective of the proposal: state what is actually going to be observed and what shall be extracted from the observations, so that the feasibility becomes clear. In the case of VLT-XMM programmes please also specify the immediate objectives of the XMM observations.



- Present the observations you are proposing to address the previous question(s)
  - The results and discussion of the paper should be anticipated
  - If you get a negative result – discuss the implications
  - Feasibility must be clear – don't try to trick the referee
  - Always identify objectively the risks and outcomes
  - Present your strategy for data reduction and interpretation
-



# Description + Immediate Objective

## 2 pages including figures



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
STAY WITHIN  
THE LIMITS

- FOCUS and be consistent!
- Choose the most interesting-catchy-cool result you expect
- Choose 1-2 nice, representative, simple figures

*Be aware of the dual anonymous guidelines!*

## Run Summary

[Edit](#)

Run	Period	Instrument	Tel. Time	Constraints	Mode	Type	Tel. Setup	Propr. Time	Time Constraints
1. Run 1	105	MATISSE	1.0h	Turbulence: 70% (Seeing < 1.15 arcsec, t0 > 2.2 ms) pwv: 30mm Sky: PHO	SM	Normal	VLT-AT	12m	

## Special Remarks

0 of 1000 char

[ωτλ >](#)

**i** Take advantage of this box to provide any special remark.

## Special remarks

- stress out you are requesting just a small amount of time for outstanding outcome
- Your proposal has loose weather constraints => qualifies as filler





# Your source

## ✦ Add Target

Target Name · RETURN to resolve	Right Ascension	Declination	Coordinate System	Comment
<input type="text" value="alf Ori"/>	<input type="text" value="05:55:10.30"/>	<input type="text" value="07:24:25.4"/>	<input type="text" value="J2000"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Moving Target Properties

Solar System Body

Proper Motion Right Ascension	Proper Motion Declination	Epoch	Parallax	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Radial Velocity <input type="radio"/> Redshift
<input type="text" value="0.02754"/>	<input type="text" value="0.01130"/>	<input type="text" value="2000"/>	<input type="text" value="6.550"/>	<input type="text" value="21.91"/>

Magnitudes  Fluxes

Specify either pairs of band/magnitude or pairs of wavelength/flux. Specify wavelengths in nm, and fluxes in W/m<sup>2</sup>/nm (point source) or W/m<sup>2</sup>/nm/arcsec<sup>2</sup> (extended source). When resolving a target name, bands/magnitudes are automatically filled in, but can be edited. Click (+) or hit [enter] to save.

Band ⓘ	Magnitude ⓘ	Action
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="+"/>
≡ V	0.42	<input type="button" value="✕"/>
≡ R	-1.17	<input type="button" value="✕"/>
≡ K	-4.05	<input type="button" value="✕"/>



# Do not over constrain your observations

## 👁 Add Observing Run

Run Name	Instrument	Telescope Setup	Run Type	Observing Mode	Period	Proprietary Time
Run 1	MATISSE	VLTI-AT	Normal	SM	105	12 months

### MATISSE Observing Constraints

Sky Transparency	PWV (mm)
Photometric	30
Turbulence	
50% (Seeing < 1.0 arcsec, t0 > 3.2 ms)	

✖ Cancel    ✓ Add Run

Identify your **minimum** requirements

- If you ask 2" you always get usually **better** than that (do not be too strict nor too relaxed!)

Be aware of the turbulence constraints & **make sure you select the right category both for instrument and telescope guiding**



# Observing Setup

## Observing Runs

Show all Show all with details Collapse all Add Run

Run 1 - Run 1 · P105 · MATISSE · SM  
Turbulence: 70% (Seeing < 1.15 arcsec, t0 > 2.2 ms) pwv: 30mm Sky: PHO



### 1. Observing Setup: OS 1



<b>MATISSE</b> <span>✕</span>	<b>Observation</b> <span>✕</span>
Interferometric Array small	Do photometry sequence (T or F) true
Types of interferometric observations imaging	Spectral mode for L&M bands LOW
	Spectral mode for N band LOW





# Targets and run

*i* Select targets and associate them with the desired observing runs.

## Select Targets

Select Targets			<a href="#">Unselect All</a>	<a href="#">Select All</a>
	Target Name	RA	Dec	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	alf Ori	05:55:10.30	07:24:25.4	

## Observing Runs

Normal Run: Run 1	P105 · MATISSE · SM
<a href="#">Assign →</a>	<a href="#">✕ Remove all targets</a>
☰ alf Ori	<a href="#">✕</a>

Assign the target to the run

More targets can be assigned to the same run

# Constraints

## Lunar Phase and Constraints Justification

0 of 1000 char

ωτλ >

**i** Justification of the requested conditions in terms of lunar phase and constraints. Please reference all runs having different constraints.

Lunar Phase: important for Adaptive optics (NAOMI, MACAO), not for VLTI instruments! See the manuals

## Time Justification

0 of 3000 char

ωτλ >

**i** Justification of the telescope time, including technical and seeing overheads. Please discuss each run.

- Identify the amount of time **CRUCIAL** to achieve your goals and justify it, stay simple
  - Use the Exposure Time Calculator (see Lucertini talk later today)
  - **The numbers on the manual and overhead table rules!**
-

## The CfP, ESO manuals, the instrument webpages and overhead table rule!



Credit: Game of thrones season 2, episode 6.

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# Constraints

## Telescope Justification

0 of 1000 char

ωτλ >

**i** Justification of the choice of telescope (eg. VLT, NTT, etc...) with respect to other available alternatives. For non-Member State Proposals, indicate whether alternatives are available to the proposers.

- Why GRAVITY and not PIONIER? Why not aperture masking?  
Why MATISSE and not VISIR?
  - Beware of asking UT time when it can be done with ATs
-



# Constraints

## Observing Mode Justification

0 of 1000 char

ωπλ >

**i** Explain if a particular observing mode (Service/Visitor) is specifically needed for this programme. If either is suitable, then please enter N/A.

Visitor Mode (VM) can be relevant if

- Observing difficult targets (magnitude/zenithal distance)
- Be aware of the new “designated VM”
- Service is more efficient

## Calibration Request

0 of 1000 char

ωπλ >

**i** If calibrations are required in addition to the standard calibration plan, justify why, and describe them. If the calibration plan is sufficient, please enter N/A.

Check on the instrument manual! Careful with creativity....





# The archive and the GTO

## Duplication with ESO Science Archive

0 of 1000 char [ωτλ >](#)

**i** Are the data requested by this proposal in the ESO Science Archive? If so, explain the need for new data. Otherwise, please enter N/A.

## GTO & Survey Target Duplication Justification

0 of 1000 char [ωτλ >](#)

**i** Are some of your targets part of the GTO-protected target lists? If yes, please explain why there is no conflict with the GTO programme. Otherwise, please enter N/A.

- Justify archive duplication
- Check the GTO list online before starting to write. You cannot duplicate GTO observations!

# Common mistakes

- Bad use of telescope time:
  - Huge program with low return (probability)
  - Asking not enough time
- Don't consider panel composition
  - The proposal should very well introduce the domain
- Errors that show that the proposal was done in a hurry
  - after copy and paste read what you wrote..
  - after 2 days read again!
- Asking for too stringent observing conditions
- Unstructured proposal
  - Figures can be very useful, even if they are not mandatory
- Submitting too many proposals



# Tips & Tricks



## The panel likes:

Innovative/ambitious FEASIBLE proposals  
With high impact potential when compared  
with the average A&A paper  
Well structured proposals



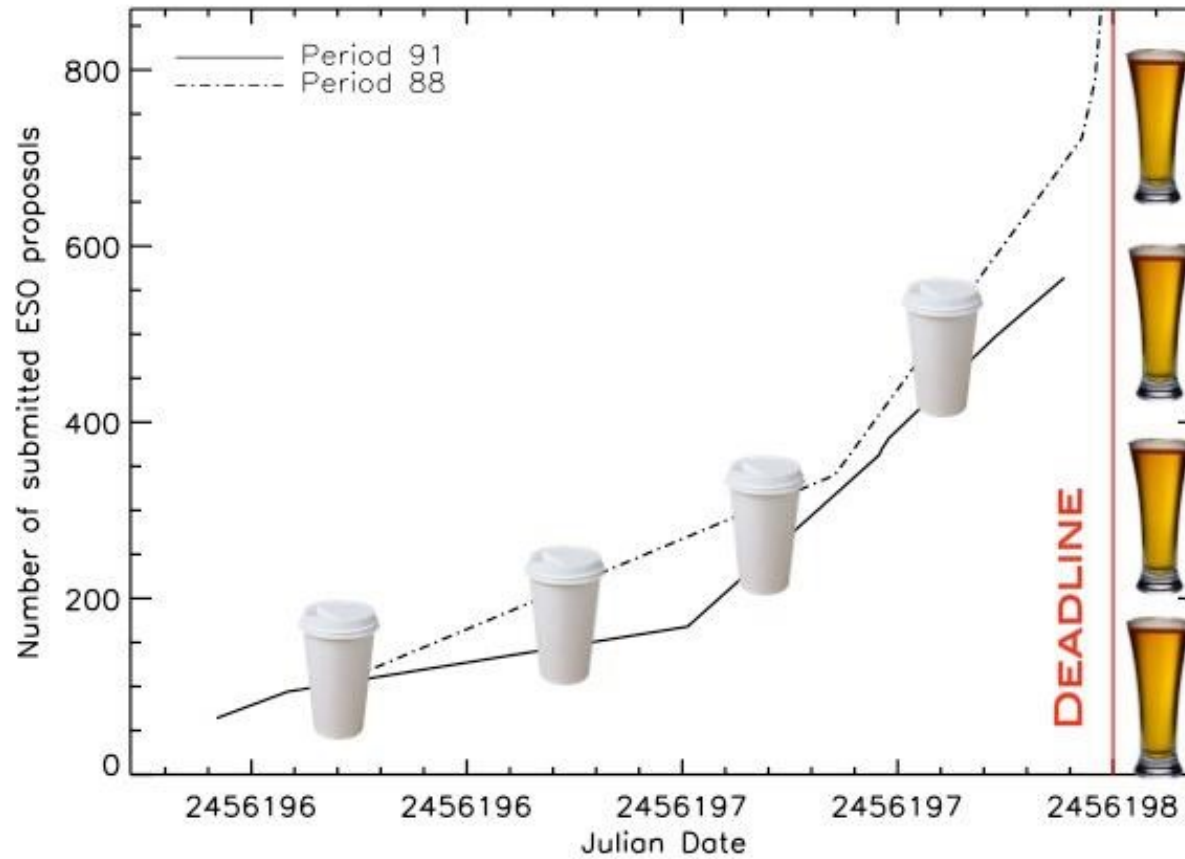
## Remember:

When you apply for 1 target explain why  
exactly that star (relevance for the field of  
research)

If you apply for a Large Program your  
proposal will be judged by all the panels:  
program relevant for every field of research!

---

# Submit within the deadline





# AFTER THE OPC MEETING

106 [Change period](#)

You can find below a list of all the proposals that you submitted for application for observing time during Period 106. Please for each of them read carefully the additional information accessible by clicking on the programme ID, which covers important aspects related to time allocation comments, technical feasibility issues, scheduling and deadlines.

Status	Programme ID	Title
X	106.D-0001	This is the title of your proposal number 1
✓	106.D-0002	This is the title of your proposal number 2
✓	106.D-0003	This is the title of your proposal number 3 (did you really write 3 proposals?)

Strength: This is a new field of investigation which is worth exploring and which has the potential of providing crucial constraints to the current theories of convection.

Weakness: The sample size is not justified. Why seven stars (no more, no less)? What will this sample be able to test that cannot be done with less stars or would not greatly benefit from an extended sample...



# Proposal ranking categories



## A: Programs highly ranked

- All possible effort will be made to execute all the OBs in the requested observing period
- If not totally executed
  - can be declared “substantially complete”
  - carry it over to at most the next useful period (only Large Programs)

## B: Programs well ranked

- Best effort will be made to execute all the OBs in the requested observing period

## C: Filler programs selected from below the cut-off line

- OBs will only be executed if the observing conditions do not permit to conduct programs A and B
- If you have no weather constrains you will very likely get data!

# What to do when you get rejected



Do not overemphasize the message you got

Understand why you got rejected

- Read the proposal again
- Ask your colleagues to read the proposal and give you his feedback
- Always be positive and objective during communication

**Avoid at all cost entering conspiracy theories**



# What to do when you get A/B but no data...



- Re-submitted with a special remark on non-execution and grade (careful with anonymization!)
- Relax observing constrains (seeing, ETC)
- Remember that scheduling is done by software...





## More Tips & Tricks

**=> learn to write proposal: exercise, exercise...**

- To have ideas for a science case read a lot of papers and go to seminars! Even if they are not related to your PhD/scientific topic!
  - When you have an idea try first to convince your collaborators.
  - Do not wait the day before the deadline! At least try...
  - Read the manuals, read the manuals, read the manuals...
  - Check carefully your targets! (are they bright enough? are they in the right hemisphere? are they observable in the period of the call?).
  - Use the tools for preliminary modeling & feasibility! (ETC)
  - Aim for a balance between humility + open-mindedness (80% perhaps) and arrogance + sheer-self-belief (20%).
  - Having a really good abstract and title are surprisingly helpful
-



## Service Mode To Do list

**Read p2 & instrument manuals**

Search for calibrators

Prepare phase 2 for science & calibrators

Attach Finding Charts in the right wavelength for the telescope guiding

Write README

**=> Submit material to ESO within the deadline**

**=> see Francesca's talk**



# Visitor Mode To Do list

Submit mission form to ESO at least 2 month before your run

**Read p2 & instrument manuals**

**Prepare list of backup targets**

- Submit for approval at least 2 weeks before your trip
- Include targets more South than Paranal

Prepare phase 2 for science & calibrators

***Bring chocolate for the Gods of the mountain (cit. S. Brilliant)***

=> If you do the last two points before going to Paranal...










... you'll be allowed to bring  
your swimming suit ...

---

# Thank you!

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**Claudia Paladini**  
**[cpaladin@eso.org](mailto:cpaladin@eso.org)**

-  @ESO Astronomy
-  @esoastronomy
-  @ESO
-  european-southern-observatory
-  @ESOobservatory

