

## CALL FOR VISIR SCIENCE VERIFICATION PROPOSALS

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### Deadlines

**SV Run: 23-27 February 2016**

**Deadline for SV proposals: 15 December 2015 18:00 CET**

VISIR, the mid-infrared imager and spectrograph on the Very Large Telescope has now been successfully in operation for several years. Since the introduction of VISIR, mid-infrared detector technology has advanced significantly, and ESO, in collaboration with members of the consortium that built VISIR (CEA Saclay, France and ASTRON, the Netherlands) has upgraded the VISIR capabilities. The old  $256 \times 256$  detectors were replaced by new Raytheon AQUARIUS  $1024 \times 1024$  pixel arrays providing excellent cosmetics and higher sensitivity. New coronagraphic (both in field and pupil tracking mode) and sparse aperture masking (SAM) modes have been implemented in the course of the VISIR upgrade. In addition, the Burst Mode will be recommissioned in January 2016.

The new VISIR modes will be offered to the community for Science Verification (SV) for 4 nights in February 2016. All astronomers are invited to participate in this opportunity to obtain unique science with these VISIR modes and thus to demonstrate their 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. It should be noted that given the timing of the SV process, VISIR proposals submitted to the OPC for P97 will not be considered for SV and that, all other things being equal, preference will be given to proposals covering RA ranges not reachable during P97.

The observations will be conducted in Service Mode by a dedicated team of ESO astronomers. The VISIR 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 VISIR 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 VISIR documentation carefully and use the exposure time calculator ([www.eso.org/observing/etc/](http://www.eso.org/observing/etc/)) to estimate the exposure times. Overheads may be estimated using the information in the Overheads webpage, which is available at <http://www.eso.org/sci/facilities/lpo/cfp/overheads.html>.

Please use the special LaTeX template that can be downloaded from the VISIR science verification web site (<http://www.eso.org/sci/activities/vltsv/>). On this web site also a more detailed description of the offered modes for science verification and their sensitivities and limitations as far as already known can be found. 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 [visirsv@eso.org](mailto:visirsv@eso.org) not later than 15 December 2015, 18:00 CET.**