

ASKAP: guidelines for requesting non-SSP observing time

While ASKAP with its innate wide field of view is focused primarily on approved large Survey Science Projects, it has long been intended to make some time available for Guest Science Projects (GSP) - scientifically-interesting projects of a modest scale that do not fit easily within the large surveys. Initially it was conceived that up to 25% of available time be allocated to GSP (see the [ASKAP user policy](#), section 4). An independent Review of ASKAP Surveys Science Projects (RASSP) in 2022 has recommended a lower figure of 5-10%, bearing in mind the large oversubscription of the ASKAP 5-year survey program.

Accordingly, from May 2023, proposals are now invited for Guest Science Projects (GSP) on ASKAP. Proposal submission and evaluation will follow the same procedure as that for the other ATNF facilities: proposals should be submitted online in OPAL and will be evaluated by the AT Time Assignment Committee for the next observing Semester. Note that proposals that overlap or conflict unduly with existing surveys will not be approved.

Up to 150 hours of available time in total may be awarded to GSP proposals in each Semester. This level may be reviewed after the first 12 months. In order to limit impact on Surveys, GSP proposals should fit within a few well-tested observing templates (modes). We envisage that the set of available templates will expand over time.

For details on how to apply and further information on GSP proposals see the ATNF telescope [Apply for time](#) page and links therein.

Requests for modest amounts of ASKAP time may also be made in either of the following two categories;

- Target-of-Opportunity observations, with a science motivation
- Observations to commission, test or demonstrate new ASKAP capabilities or modes

Requests for time should be submitted to the online ASKAP ToO request form [here](#), explaining clearly how the request fits into one or both of these categories;

Science-motivated requests:

Requests for modest amounts of time (< 100 hours) for scientific observations can be considered under the existing ATNF Target-of-Opportunity procedure, and should include:

- A science case, commensurate in level of detail with the amount of time being requested
- Justification of the time-critical or unique nature of the proposed observations
- Details of technical requirements, including full observing specification, and any requirements for special processing, Pawsey disk space, staff assistance or other resources
- A clearly-stated data release plan to be executed prior to publication
- Where potential overlap exists with an existing ASKAP survey or other ATNF project, a clear statement of a jointly-agreed plan for authorship of any publications arising.

Requests for NAPA observations (one or more observations scheduled according to a defined trigger event) should be submitted in OPAL, through the Guest Science Proposal system as described above.

It is envisaged that requests will generally be observed using existing survey templates. Proposers contemplating observations that cannot be so accommodated, or who are unsure on this point, should consult the ASKAP Operations team before submitting the request.

It is expected that the observations be validated in CASDA promptly after processing, if necessary by ASKAP Operations staff. Note that while best efforts will be made to process the observation as quickly as possible, the processing priority cannot be guaranteed.

Commissioning, test or demonstration observations

Requests for time for the purpose of commissioning, testing or demonstrating new ASKAP capabilities or modes should address:

- Science, commissioning or strategic value of the proposed new capability or mode (where this is not already evident)
- Significance of the specific proposed tests for commissioning or demonstration,
- Any impact on other ASKAP activities or resources, particularly on existing survey programs,
- Any potential conflict with the science goals of any existing ASKAP scientific program
- Any intention to publish scientific results using the proposed observations. If so, a short science case should be included in the request. It should also be noted that:
 - Any publication arising from such observations should follow the ASKAP Publications Policy for commissioning time data usage
 - The authors of any proposed publication(s) arising need to address the question of making the data publicly available prior to publication, e.g. in CASDA
 - Where potential overlap exists with an existing ASKAP survey or other ATNF project, a clear statement of a jointly-agreed plan for authorship of any publications arising

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