

## ATNF ATUC Memorandum

**To:** ATUC  
**From:** D McConnell  
**Date:** 25 November 2005  
**Subject** **Target-of-Opportunity criteria**

Responding to a request for telescope access for a Target-of-Opportunity (ToO) involves answering the following questions.

1. Are the requested observations urgent?
  - Is there a time-critical aspect to the scientific question, such as time variability of the object concerned?
  - Is it in the interests of the scientific community to answer the question quickly; for example to contribute to a new and topical discussion of great scientific interest?
2. Is the requested observation technically and operationally feasible?
  - There may be telescope facilities normally offered, but not available at short notice;
  - Operational resources may not be available for the proposed observation.
3. Is the scientific merit of the proposal sufficient to commit telescope resources?
  - There is an operational cost, even if the telescope would otherwise not be engaged in astronomical measurements.
4. Does the scientific merit of the proposal exceed that of scheduled observations that would be displaced by granting the ToO observations?
  - This is a question of scientific judgement, and the Director may choose to consult the TAC chair or other TAC members for advice on this question.
5. Are the proposers of the ToO observations willing to make the data public immediately (within 1 week)
  - It is a condition of using telescope override observations that the normal 18 month proprietary period be waived.

If there is an affirmative answer to all these questions the ToO time will be granted. The Director may choose to modify the precise details of the requested observations for scientific, technical or operational reasons.