

Santander 9 June 2020

Dear Prof. Prada,

This letter is to express the interest of the Instituto de Física de Cantabria (IFCA CSIC-UC) in the MAAT project at GTC. The proposal matches our expertise and the research supported through this project will advance the goals of an outstanding international project that will provide the GTC with unique capabilities.

MAAT@GTC is devised as a Visitor IFS-mode that will allow the OSIRIS spectrograph at the 10.4 m GTC the capability to perform Integral-Field Spectroscopy over a seeing-limited field of view  $14.20'' \times 10''$  with a slice width of  $0.303''$ , and will provide broad spectral coverage with low / moderate resolution ( $R=600$  up to 4100) in the 360 - 1000 nm spectral range. Its top-level requirements will broaden its use to the needs of a group of researchers at IFCA (including Jose M. Diego, Silvia Mateos, Amalia Corral, Silvia Martínez-Núñez and Francisco J. Carrera) for a wide range of activities of relevance for IFCA researchers, such as gravitational lensing or finding counterparts to X-ray or mid-infrared selected sources. These science projects are currently limited by the availability of optimal spectroscopic resources, especially on large aperture telescopes. MAAT at GTC would fill in an important missing component in our programs. We will seek ways to provide synergy with current and upcoming surveys at different wavelengths, such as JWST and J-PAS.

The scientific reach of MAAT@GTC is proving to be very substantial with a major impact on Astronomy and Cosmology. The Instituto de Física de Cantabria would be pleased to collaborate with the Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía (CSIC) and its partners on this initiative. If a mutual agreement can be reached, IFCA would be eager to contribute to the project, and seek funds for it.

Sincerely,

Prof. José Manuel Gutiérrez  
Director IFCA (<http://www.ifca.es>)