

Stockholm, May 18, 2020

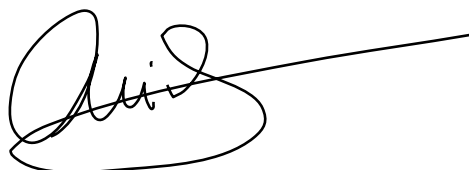
Dear Paco,

With this letter I want to express my interest in the MAAT project at GTC. As you know, the Oskar Klein Centre at Stockholm University has a major interest in time domain astronomy and has made significant investments in facilities for wide-field optical imaging, e.g., the intermediate Palomar Transient Factory (iPTF; 2013-2017), the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF, 2018-2020) and the Rubin Observatory, expected to start a 10-year sky survey in 2022. We are also planning to join the phase-II of ZTF, (2021-2023).

Our activities, mainly in the field of supernova research and related cosmological applications, as well as the study of EM counterparts to the compact object mergers detected with the gravitational wave network of interferometers, have received generous grants from the Swedish research council as well as the Knut & Alice Wallenberg foundation. These science projects are currently limited by the availability of spectroscopic resources, especially from large aperture telescopes. MAAT at GTC would fill in an important missing component in our programs.

if a mutual agreement could be reached, I would be eager to contribute to the project and seek funds for it. I anticipate the instrument would generate much excitement among my Swedish colleagues and resonate well with our funding agencies.

Sincerely,



Prof. Ariel Goobar