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Head of Instrumentation

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Francisco Prada
Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía
Granada, Spain

Dear Paco,

The letter is to outline our support to your project *Panoptic spectroscopy of our universe with OSIRIS+MAAT at the GTC*, which aims to bring a visitor mirror-slicer optical system that will enable integral-field spectroscopy using the OSIRIS spectrograph on the Grand Telescopio Canarias.

The AAO-MQ has a long history of designing and building innovative instrumentation for astronomy on telescopes around the world. We also have experience in using those instruments for astronomical science programs.

The AAO-MQ has already contributed to the conceptual optical design for MAAT, and we look forward to being involved in further technical development and in the eventual delivery of the instrument. We also have a keen interest in much of the scientific areas that MAAT will enable. While we cannot yet make a formal commitment, we are actively searching for funding that may assist in the next phases of the MAAT instrument project.

MAAT will bring an invaluable capability to the GTC. With a relatively wide-field of 140 arcsec^2 and good sampling of 0.3 arcsec , this integral field unit will be internationally competitive. It will allow a wide range of new scientific discovery in fields such as characterisation of the intergalactic medium, studies of black holes, AGNs and the origin of relativistic jets, exploration of host galaxies for transients like supernovae and gamma ray bursts, and the study of brown dwarfs and planetary-mass objects.

I look forward to working further with you on this project and on strengthening our collaboration from personal, institutional, and national view-points.

Sincerely,

Jon Lawrence