



MINISTERIO
DE CIENCIA E INNOVACIÓN



Madrid, 3 de julio de 2020

To: GTC Steering Committee

Dear sirs,

This letter is to express the support of Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) for MAAT to be considered as a Visitor Instrument for GTC. MAAT is devised as the IFS-mode for the OSIRIS spectrograph on the 10.4-m GTC telescope, and is expected to provide seeing-limited and wide-band Integral-Field Spectroscopy at low/moderate spectral resolution in the 360-1000 nm spectral range. Prof. Francisco Prada, a Research Professor at the IAA-CSIC and expert on Extragalactic Astronomy and Cosmology, leads the project.

As a result of the workshop *Panoptic spectroscopy of our universe with OSIRIS+MAAT at GTC*, held online on May 5, 2020, a group of scientists and engineers in Spain have shown interest in the project and contributed to the White Paper on MAAT@GTC, including researchers from other CSIC centers (mainly IFCA and CAB), in addition to IAA. This represents a significant participation of CSIC in the project.

The research supported through this project covers a wide range of science topics that encompasses the entire area of astronomy, and is expected to have a large impact beyond the fields of Transients and time-domain Astrophysics. Additionally, the GTC equipped with OSIRIS+MAAT will also play an important role in synergetic studies to be explored with other Spanish observatories and upcoming surveys at different wavelengths.

CSIC supports the proposal for MAAT as a Visitor instrument for GTC for the following reasons. On the one hand, MAAT covers a very competitive scientific niche that will place GTC in an international leadership position, provided the instrument is available on the telescope in two years. On the other hand, the PI is applying for an ERC Advanced Grant (26 August 2020 deadline) that, if selected, will provide funds for covering most of the project's needs for its construction. MAAT lies at the core of the ERC Advanced Grant proposal. CSIC will also support the PI to pursuing alternative funding opportunities towards a successful strategy that will encourage and support the development of this new facility on the GTC.

It should also be mentioned the technical support and help provided by the GTC staff for the preparation of the MAAT Proposal.

For all these reasons, we will be pleased if you find this proposal sound and ambitious, and consider it as a solid candidate for Visitor Instrument at GTC.

Thanks for considering this possibility, with best regards,

Jesús Marco de Lucas
Vicepresidente de Investigación Científica y Técnica