

NYAC CALL FOR CONCEPT PROPOSALS FOR A NY STATE TELESCOPE

7/5/10

The NYAC/ASNY Telescope Committee solicits proposals for a NY State Telescope from all members of the NY Astronomical Community.

SCHEDULE:

Letter of intent with a 1 page executive summary is due October 1, 2010. An accompanying cover letter should include the list of co-Is and their affiliations. Letters of intent should be sent to the Chairman of the NYAC Board of Directors electronically (address is given at the bottom of this call).

A workshop with all proposers will be held in mid October, adjacent to the fall ASNY Meeting, hosted by the NYAC/ASNY Telescope Committee.

Concept papers are due January 10, 2011, and should include a 1 page executive summary, a 1 page list of collaborators with institutional affiliation, and a 10 page white paper, to be structured as outlined below. Concept papers should also be sent to the Chairman of the NYAC Board of Directors, electronically.

Concept papers should address:

- Science (~3 pages)
- High level hardware design, operational concept, and time to completion (~4 pages)
- Responsiveness of the concept to the mission statement of the NY State Telescope using the general results from the survey as an additional guide. (The NYAC Telescope Mission Statement and survey results can be accessed at <http://myslu.stlawu.edu/~aodo/ASNY/index.htm>). In this section proposers should also address the expected breadth of participation across the NYS community in the construction and use of the facility and its instrumentation. (~2 pages).
- Funding model and partnership, including appeal of concept to NY State, potential partnerships and sponsors outside of NY State Government, including NY State industry, the Federal Government, other university or association partners, private donors, etc. (~1 page).

PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS:

Following receipt of the letters of intent, the NYAC Board of Directors will convene an external-to-NY-State review committee, to assure an independent assessment and reduce opportunities for conflicts of interest. The External Review Committee will review the 10 page white papers and provide assessments of the proposed telescope concepts to the NYAC Board of

Directors. The concepts will be evaluated on the basis of (1) their scientific excellence, (2) the feasibility of the proposed hardware and operational concept including time to completion, (3) the responsiveness to the mission concept and survey results, (4) the strength of the proposed funding model and potential partnerships.

NYAC/ASNY TELESCOPE MISSION STATEMENT

The New York Astronomical Corporation (NYAC) was chartered roughly 40 years ago with the goal of providing access to a telescope to the astronomical community of New York. This goal is even more compelling today in a world where access to world-class facilities is critical to the health of our research efforts. The NY astronomical community is rich in talent, expertise, and enthusiasm. NYAC itself has negligible resources, but will act as a catalyst and focus for this grassroots effort. Accordingly, NYAC is calling for participation in the production of a proposal for a telescope that will provide access for the entire NY astronomical community, will enable front line research, excite and train the next generation of students in the STEM disciplines, and stimulate public interest in science. Our goal will be to produce a compelling proposal that can be presented to state agencies and private donors over a few year timescale.

NYAC CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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NYAC/ASNY TELESCOPE COMMITTEE

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