

Call for Public Spectroscopic Surveys with VIMOS

In the first call for Public Spectroscopic Surveys with ESO telescopes, projects asking for surveys with VIMOS could not be allocated time due to both the considerable oversubscription of VIMOS for on-going large programs at the time, and because of insufficient legacy value of many of the proposed projects.

In the mean time, VIMOS has been substantially upgraded improving survey efficiency (Hammersley et al., 2013, <http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2013Msngr.151....2H>) and the on-going large programs that blocked the most demanded RA ranges are nearing completion. Therefore, following a recommendation by ESO's Scientific and Technical Committee (STC), we are issuing a call **for letters of intent for large public spectroscopic surveys with VIMOS.**

A public spectroscopic survey is understood to be an observing programme in which the investigators commit to produce and make publicly available, within a defined time, a fully reduced and scientifically usable data set that is likely to answer a major scientific question, be of general use and of broad interest to the astronomical community. The raw data are public immediately. A survey is envisaged to be a massive observing programme with up to 300 observing nights to be allocated over several semesters. Observations will be carried out in visitor mode.

The letters of intent should include the following items:

1. Title and Abstract
2. Principal Investigator (PI) and a list of co-investigators
3. Scientific rationale (2 pages)
4. Observing strategy, including instruments to be used (1 page)
5. Estimated observing time, including the distribution of observing time over semesters
6. Required observing conditions (lunar phase, image quality, sky transparency)
7. Description of the responsibilities within the proposing team (1 page)
8. Description of the data products and justification of their **legacy value** (1 page).
Please note that the legacy value is an important aspect of public surveys, which is carefully considered by the review panel.

A LaTeX form is available at:

www.eso.org/sci/observing/PublicSurveys/docs/PSStemplate2013.tex

The deadline for letters of intent for public spectroscopic surveys is

15 October 2013 12:00 CEST.

Letters should be submitted only in PDF format to opo@eso.org. The same Public Spectroscopy Survey Panel (PSSP) that reviewed the first round of proposals in 2010 will review the new proposals. Recommended surveys will be invited to submit proposals for the P94 deadline for ESO observing proposals.

The ESO Director General will select the public spectroscopic surveys based on the recommendations of the PSSP and the OPC, which will evaluate their scientific excellence, and on their technical feasibility with the VIMOS spectrograph and tools. The selected teams will be invited to prepare a survey management plan, whose approval by ESO is mandatory before final acceptance of a public spectroscopic survey.

Please consider the following conditions:

- No proprietary time will be granted; raw data will become immediately available via the ESO Science Archive Facility.
- The ESO Science Archive Facility will be the repository of the survey products and provide the primary access of these products to the ESO community. Survey data products are to be prepared according to the ESO science data product standard and submitted in agreement with the policies for ESO Phase 3. The teams will be responsible for the processing and validating the data products. Regular survey data product releases are expected every year.
- Progress of the approved spectroscopic surveys will be reviewed regularly by ESO and the PSSP. Corrective steps will need to be identified in cases where the survey execution is delayed, or the data product delivery schedule cannot be maintained.