



## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY CONICYT-GEMINI POSTDOCTORAL POSITION**

### **GEMINI FUND - NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASTRONOMY AND RELATED SCIENCES**

#### **1. OVERVIEW**

This program is developed within the general scope of the "Agreement on Scientific Cooperation for the Development of Chilean Astronomical Research" dated September 1, 2004, between the *Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica* [National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research] (CONICYT) and the *Consortio Astronómico GEMINI* [GEMINI Astronomical Consortium], a project of international cooperation with the participation of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada, Chile, Australia, Argentina and Brazil.

CONICYT is the beneficiary and manager of the *Fondo para el Desarrollo Nacional de la Astronomía Chilena y Ciencias Afines* [National Fund for the Development of Chilean Astronomy and Related Sciences].

For the purposes of supporting the operation of the Gemini telescopes, each one of the member countries of the Consortium has an Office dedicated to the Gemini business. CONICYT's office for Gemini is responsible for providing scientific and technical support to astronomers using the Gemini-South Telescope, in order for the Chilean community to maximize the intellectual returns of the scientific opportunities provided by the Gemini Observatory. To this end, a Ph.D. astronomer will be required who will perform his/her working hours between the Gemini office at CONICYT and the performance of independent research in optical or infrared astronomy at one of the Chilean universities that conduct research in astronomy. This has been called CONICYT- GEMINI Postdoctoral Position.

#### **2. GOAL OF THE PROGRAM**

The goal of the CONICYT-GEMINI Postdoctoral Position is to keep the current level of support to the Chilean community for the effective use of the instrumental facilities of the Gemini-South Telescope. It is expected that such support will finally have a positive impact on the number of Chilean publications based on Gemini time.

#### **3. DUTIES**

The work to be performed by the selected individual will have two components: a) related with the functions of the CONICYT-Gemini Office, which gives support to astronomers using Chilean time on the Gemini-S telescope, and b) carry out independent research on optical and infrared astronomy at one of the Chilean universities where research in astronomy is conducted.

His/her responsibilities at the CONICYT-Gemini Office, where he/she will work with the office astronomers, include tasks such as: assistance to users in the preparation of the observation proposals (Phase I and Phase II), technical assessment of the proposals, advice on data

reduction and calibration. In addition, the selected individual is expected to perform working stays at the Gemini-South Telescope and technical talks at astronomy departments at Chilean universities. The dedication of the selected applicant to these service activities at the Gemini Office will be 50% of the contractual time.

The CONICYT-GEMINI Postdoc will also be expected to apply for telescope time at Gemini-South. His/her research will focus on areas where Gemini has its core scientific impact, which will contribute to the scientific life at the host university.

The postdoctoral position will last for two years, with a possible extension to three, from the date on which the agreement between CONICYT and the awardee is approved. This is expected to occur during the first half of 2007.

#### 4. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants may be either Chilean or foreign researchers who have obtained their Ph.D. degree in Astronomy after December 31, 2003 or who are in conditions to obtain the same 30 days prior to the start of the work.

The applicant must have observational experience both in the optical and near- and mid-infrared, including reduction and analysis of such data, and have publications based on data obtained with this instrumentation. Previous use of Gemini will see as an advantage.

At the time of applying, he/she must be sponsored by a Chilean university that will host him/her. It is desirable that the research to be performed during the period be conducted jointly with researchers of such institution.

English language, written and spoken, is required, as well as health compatible to work at 2,400 meters above sea level.

#### 5. GRANT BENEFITS

An annual salary in the amount of up to **USD 32,000** is contemplated. It will be paid in 12 installments to the postdoctoral researcher. Additionally, the applicant may request funding in the amount of up to **USD 5,000** per annum for travel (tickets and per diem expenses) directly related with the proposed research or presentation of its results and for operating expenses (laboratory consumables, books, journals and subscriptions, registration for conferences, purchase of services, minor expenses and others).

Traveling costs resulting from the duties of the Gemini office will be covered independently.

#### 6. APPLICATION MATERIALS

Applications must be submitted in the attached **application form**. Additionally, the following documents stated in the application form must be submitted:

- List of Publications.
- Research proposal (1 page maximum).
- Applicant's Statement (1 page maximum).
- Two reference letters as per the attached form, which must be sent in a sealed envelope to CONICYT by the closing date of application.

- Sponsorship letter from the Chilean university that will host the CONICYT-Gemini postdoc. Such letter must refer to the institution's commitment to provide the necessary facilities for the performance of the research project of the postdoctoral researcher, namely appropriate physical space, infrastructure, equipment, technical personnel or others.

## 7. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Evaluation of applications will be performed by external evaluators appointed by CONICYT. The main factors to be considered in the evaluation, in order of priority, are:

- Academic background of the applicant.
- Academic quality of the research proposal.
- That the research, at least partially, is based on optical or infrared observations.
- Quality of the academic unit where the research will be conducted.

The experience of applicants who have published on the basis of observations made with the Gemini telescopes will be considered as favorable.

In equity conditions preference will be given to Chilean applicants.

The decision on the successful application will be made by the GEMINI-CONICYT Fund's Board, led by the President of CONICYT, and comprised of representatives of CONICYT, astronomers of the Chilean community, a representative of the GEMINI International Astronomical Consortium, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a representative of the Ministry of Finance, based on the evaluation of the proposals by the evaluators.

The Council reserves the right to reduce the budget to be assigned and the duration of the project.

CONICYT will pass the resolution that approves the decision and the chosen proposal.

## 8. APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for application submission to CONICYT is **Monday, April 20 2009**. The applications must be sent via email to [postdocgemini@conicyt.cl](mailto:postdocgemini@conicyt.cl) in one compressed file by the above date.

Additionally, applications must be submitted in 3 printed copies, containing all the documentation, at CONICYT, Oficina de Partes, in Bernarda Morín 551, Providencia, Santiago, Chile, by the above-stated date. If an application is sent via mail or courier, the stamp seal must be dated **April 20, 2009** or earlier.

The applications must be in English. Applications received after this date will not be considered, nor those lacking any of the specifications set forth in these terms and conditions and in the attached application forms; failure to comply with these requirements will be sufficient grounds to declare the application as non-compliant with this call of applications.

CONICYT reserves the right to interpret the sense and extent of these terms and conditions in case any doubts or conflicts should rise with regard to their content and application.

For further information, please contact CONICYT's Astronomy Program at (562) 365-4441 to: [postdocgemini@conicyt.cl](mailto:postdocgemini@conicyt.cl)

**The application documents and enclosed materials will not be returned.**

## **9. NOTIFICATION**

Once the contest process' results have been decided, the final outcome will be posted on CONICYT's Web Site. Additionally, the successful applicant will be notified by mail.

## **10. CONDITIONS OF AWARD**

Subsequently to the decision on this application process, the respective agreement between CONICYT and the postdoctoral researcher must be entered into. Such agreement will set forth the rights and obligations of the parties.

The Chilean university must sponsor the proposal and contribute the infrastructure during the period of execution, and respect the dedication by the postdoctoral researcher with regard to the research project and to support the Chilean community in the use of Gemini and in the summarization of data with such instrument.

## **11. TRANSFERS**

The transfers of funds by CONICYT will be subject to the compliance with the following conditions:

- 1.1. Entire processing of the resolution whereby the agreement is approved;
- 1.2. subscription with CONICYT of a commitment to refund resources in case of default, which will be annexed to the agreement;
- 1.3. delivery and approval of the rendering of accounts and technical reports of the projects, the deadlines for which will be set forth in the agreement, and
- 1.4. availability of resources by CONICYT.

## **12. PROJECT'S COMPLETION**

The project will be rendered as completed when its goals and undertaken outcomes have been complied at CONICYT's satisfaction and both the final report and the rendering of accounts have been approved.

## **13. RESTRICTIONS**

Those researchers who currently have any pending situations with CONICYT, rising from defaults in previously funded projects, may not file applications.

The CONICYT-GEMINI Postdoctoral Position is incompatible with any other national and/or international grant and/or subsidy as may be currently or subsequently held or obtained by the applicant.

Santiago, March, 2009