

## CALL OF APPLICATIONS GEMINI FUND 2008

### 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 International 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].

#### 2. PROGRAM GOALS

The Program has been devised to contribute to the development of national astronomy. It is sought to encourage research, teaching and training of human resources in astronomy, both on an observational and theoretical basis, and in related sciences in academic institutions throughout Chile. The related sciences that have been contemplated, which should involve cutting-edge technological developments related with the astronomical observatories in Chile, are: physics, electric/electronic engineering, software engineering and mechanical engineering. The program is open to receiving any proposal that may have a positive impact on the development of excellence on national astronomy and related sciences.

#### 3. REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION

The following institutions and/or persons may file proposals and receive financial resources for this call:

- a. Non-profit, public or private national legal entities that develop or undertake to develop research or teaching work on astronomy or related sciences. They include, among others, universities and research centers and institutes. For the case of joint applications between two or more institutions, one of them must be designated as the main institution; or
- b. Individuals: researchers or faculty of national universities.

#### 4. FUNDING

The maximum funding limit for legal entities per project is **USD 100,000**, per year of execution, and for the case of individuals, the financing limit per applicant and per project is **USD 20,000** per year of execution.

## 5. LINES OF ACTION

The resources contributed by the Fund may be used to finance one or more of the following action lines:

1. Initiatives to disseminate astronomy in teaching programs in regional universities: Masterclasses on astronomy delivered to the entire university community by renowned Chilean or foreign astronomers, etc. The successful bids will preferably be those involving lectures in two or more national institutions.
2. Organization of congresses, seminars and specialized courses with the participation of renowned foreign scholars.
3. Institutional proposals that make use of opportunities offered by international observatories for the development of Engineering in connection with Instrumentation, Experimental Astronomy and Virtual Observatory in Chile.
4. Sabbatical internships (between 6 months and 1 year) of foreign faculty in national universities with postgraduate programs for the development of joint research projects and to consolidate said postgraduate programs.
5. Sabbatical internships (between 6 months and 1 year) of Chilean faculty in foreign institutions for the development of joint research projects.
6. Research visits (up to 6 months) of astronomers from Chilean universities with postgraduate programs to take place in national universities that do not have courses of study of astronomy in order to deliver lectures, seminars, participate in courses, in teaching programs, and in general, to share experiences in the areas of research and teaching.
7. Insertion of high-level, Chilean or foreign "senior" researchers in national universities. This implies that the academic unit has the institutional support to fill an additional position. The Fund may assist in co-financing the position with up to USD 40,000 per annum (continuity in the position is desirable).
8. Post-doctorate positions in national universities for Chilean or foreign astronomers, for an annual amount of up to USD 25,000 and up to USD 5,000 for associated expenses.
9. Acquisition of minor scientific equipment, software and bibliography, and support to accepted publications in ISI journals or the like.
10. Provision of minor infrastructure.
11. Grants for students to be solely requested by national universities.
  - a) Master or doctorate grants for Chilean and foreign students starting their studies for a period of up to two years.
  - b) Support grants for performing doctoral theses, for Chilean and foreign students for a period of up to three years.

The proposals that do not determine a specific period of time must be performed within two years' time maximum, except for those including doctoral theses grants.

## **6. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS**

### **National institutions:**

- Filled application form (attached)
- Resume of the project coordinator and of the execution team, as per the attached guideline.
- For the case of joint applications, the identification of the participating institutions.
- Description of the required equipment and materials, including supporting quotes and documentation.
- Letter of commitment and sponsorship of the petitioner institution.

### **Individuals:**

- Filled application form (attached).
- Resume, as per the attached guideline.
- For the case of an internship or research visit in Chile or abroad, a letter of support of the academic and/or research institution where the internship and/or visit will be conducted.

## **7. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS**

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

- Quality and relevance of the proposal, either in the field of research or teaching or both.
- Consistency between the objectives and the required amounts in the proposal.
- Academic quality of the applicant university unit.
- Academic background of the project's coordinator and of the executing team.
- Priority of the teaching and research lines for the university.
- Capability to maintain action in time, regardless the requested financial support.

The decision on the successful applications will be made by the GEMINI-CONICYT Fund's Board, lead 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 GEMINI-CONICYT Fund's Board reserves the right to reduce the budgets to be assigned and the duration of the projects.

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

## 8. APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for application submission to CONICYT is **Friday 11, april, 2008, at 3:00 pm**. Applications must be sent via e-mail to [fondogemini@conicyt.cl](mailto:fondogemini@conicyt.cl) in Word or PDF format, in one single file. Additionally, 3 printed copies containing all the documentation must be sent to Bernarda Morín 551, Providencia, Santiago, jointly with a back-up copy of the project in CD in Word or PDF format by the above-stated date.

The proposals could be submitted in either English or Spanish. No proposals submitted lacking any of the specifications set forth in these terms and conditions and in the attached forms will be accepted; failure to comply with these requirements shall be sufficient grounds to declare the application as non-compliant with the terms and conditions.

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) 435-4343 or [fondogemini@conicyt.cl](mailto:fondogemini@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 participants will be notified by mail.

## 10. AGREEMENTS

Subsequently to the notification of the approved proposals, the respective agreements between CONICYT and the successful applicants must be entered into. Said agreements shall set forth the rights and obligations of the parties.

For the case of institutional applications, the applying institution will be the direct beneficiary of the resources, and will have to lodge the appropriate guarantee, and must manage the resources as per what is provided in the clauses specified in the agreement. Likewise, it must provide a physical space and contribution in infrastructure, personnel and support in all possible forms for the successful execution of the project. It will also be responsible before CONICYT for the timely delivery of both progress reports and final reports concerning the project under execution as well as for the respective reports of expenses and the custody of the transferred resources.

For the case of individuals, an agreement will be entered into between CONICYT and the researcher.

## **11. TRANSFERS**

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

- 11.1. entire processing of the resolution whereby the agreements are approved;
- 11.2. delivery to CONICYT of the respective guarantee(s), (immediately executable insurance or bank bond) which will be specified in the agreements.
- 11.3. delivery and approval of the rendering of accounts and technical reports of the projects, the deadlines for which will be set forth in the agreements, and
- 11.4. availability of resources by CONICYT.

## **12. COMPLETION OF THE PROJECTS**

A project will be rendered as completed when its goals and undertaken outcomes have been complied at CONICYT's satisfaction and 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, including ALMA projects, may not apply in this invitation to tender.

Santiago, february, 2008