

Initial Proposal Calls

Proposal Call Preparations

“LOFAR Version 1” will start Operational Year 1:

- Broad enough for many user groups
- Basic enough to be robust & supportable

Code freeze still expected end Feb 2012

- Then need a few months for final testing & documentation

⇒ Call for Regular Observing proposals planned ~15 May 2012

- Final release date subject to readiness review
- Intended proposal submission deadline 31 Jul 2012
- Intended first Regular Observing semester: 1 Oct 2012 – 31 Mar 2013
- First semester: 1/3 continued commissioning, 2/3 Regular Observing

- Until 1 Oct 2012 100% further commissioning, coordinated by LCCG
=> New opportunities for expert participation announced regularly (April)

Reserved Access Proposal Call

- Goals:
 - Commit most or all ‘must-sponsor’ reserved access shares for first semester
 - But selection, scheduling specific initial observations within scope of reserved access projects will be based on subsequently submitted Regular Observing proposals
 - Prior indications to KSPs for their planning:
 - Overall assessment by PC of range of objectives / full plan
 - Overall allocation national consortia will make to them
 - Prior indications to full community of science to be pursued
 - Opportunities to collaborate
 - Science that can be done in Open Time
 - Requests to advance / co-use elements of large programs
 - Archive requests (immediate or after proprietary time)

Reserved Access Proposal Call

- Targeted at:
 - Parties that wish to obtain reserved access from one or more national consortia
 - Long-term, large-scale, astrophysically and observationally cohesive programmes,
 - Including in particular the well-established LOFAR Key Science Projects
 - May submit separate “umbrella” proposals on separate sets of well-connected research topics, grouped on
 - observing technique
 - science theme
 - Collaborators grouped on separate proposals to fit goals
 - regardless of (national) affiliation or other framework
 - Each national consortium uses own decision procedures, allocate its shares to fit the specific interests for its community

Reserved Access Proposal Call

- Timeline:
 - Call has been released
 - Online documentation will continue to be augmented until end Jan
 - NorthStar online submission tool will open 1 Feb
 - Submission deadline Mon 5 Mar at 12 UT
 - Results known ~ end Apr 2012 (before Regular Call)
- Procedure:
 - Technical review by TAG
 - Reviews by PC members (followed by telecon if time permits)
 - Most/all of ‘must-sponsor’ umbrella allocations for first semester committed by National Consortia
 - No direct scheduling: allocations used as input for Regular Proposal round
 - Assignment to specific (sub)projects falling within the sponsored umbrellas, will subsequently happen through the subsequent Regular Observing proposal call

Reserved Access Proposals

- Total length 8 pages.
 - 6 public pages, including abstract, broad science case, general observing plan, list of research topics.
 - 2 pages further (technical) details, confidential other information
- National consortia now commit most or all of “must-sponsor” access
 - To be spent within specific umbrellas
 - For first semester
 - Detailed distribution & remaining fraction allocated to Regular Proposals
 - » Consortia may give non-binding indications now
- Proposers must sketch long-term framework & plans
- Consortia may give non-binding indications on 33%-50% for months 7-24
- Further Call for Reserved Access, allowing longer horizon commitments, to be issued along with further Regular Observing calls

Time available first semester

- Further commissioning (33%)
- Maintenance (7%)
- Director's discretionary time (5%)

- Open Skies access (5.5%)
- NLLAC reserved access (31.9%)
- GLOW reserved access (9.35%)
- FLOW, LOFAR-Sweden, LOFAR-UK reserved access (2.75% each)
- [Local station-owner stand-alone operations (5.5%)]

- After a year, the fraction of Open Skies will be increased, and the fraction required for commissioning is expected to decrease

Regular call will have Open Skies opportunities

- And assignment of some additional 'may-sponsor' reserved access (by PC and Consortia)

- Questions: sciencesupport@astron.nl