

Agreement for Joint NRAO-JWST Observing Proposals

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) and the Green Bank Observatory (GBO) (hereafter referred to collectively as “the Observatory”), operated under cooperative agreement by Associated Universities Inc., provides state-of-the-art radio telescopes for use by the international scientific community.

Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) is a multi-mission operations center for NASA's flagship observatories and a world-class astronomical research center, operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy.

The Observatory and the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) are entering into an agreement to support joint proposals for observations with the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and the Very Long Baseline Array (VLBA), a milliarcsecond- resolution continent---wide interferometer array; the Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (VLA), an arcsecond---resolution centimeter---wave interferometer array; and the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope (GBT), a precise 100m single---aperture telescope.

1. A Joint Proposal requests time on both JWST and the Observatory facilities and may be submitted for review by either the NRAO Telescope Allocation Committee or the JWST Telescope Allocation Committee for scientific peer review. Effectively, these Joint Proposals would allow for one of the two observatories to award observing time on both telescopes, avoiding the “double jeopardy” of having to submit proposals to two separate reviews.
2. By agreement, STScI will be able to award up to 5% of the available time on the VLA, GBT or the VLBA per year to highly rated proposals and the Observatory will be able to award up to 50 hours of JWST time per cycle to highly rated proposals. These time allocations could be updated in future cycles, subject to agreement between both partners.
3. STScI and the Observatory shall apply their usual review criteria; however, they will ensure that the projects submitted as joint proposals must be fundamentally of a multi-wavelength nature, with both sets of data required to meet the science goals.
4. STScI and the Observatory shall apply their respective users' policies, as relevant.
5. The Observatory's time will only be awarded by STScI in conjunction with new JWST observations and may not be requested by an archival research program or by programs to which time is already granted. STScI and the Observatory may set additional constraints regarding the total time available for particular types of observations, such as time-constrained observations, Targets of Opportunity or other observations requiring particular technical constraints or observatory configurations.
6. Proposals for the Observatory and JWST observations must be submitted to the observatory where more observing time is being requested or, in case the time requested is the same, other objective condition to be defined in the Proposal Call documentation. The same proposal may not be submitted to both observatories for review at the same time. The Observatory and JWST reserve the right to disallow observations that duplicate those approved via any other approved program unless the duplications are justified in the original proposals.

7. All programs recommended for acceptance will be subject to technical and scheduling review by both observatories and may be cancelled if the observations are not deemed feasible by either observatory. JWST observations recommended for acceptance by the Observatory are subject to approval by the STScI Director. The Observatory's observations recommended for acceptance by JWST are subject to approval by the NRAO Director.
8. Both observatories undertake to apply their own privacy policies and to keep their normal standards of confidentiality for their own time allocation processes and to keep this confidential information secure with the highest degree of care with which they protect the confidentiality of their confidential information in the similar nature.
9. Data obtained as part of a joint observed program shall be subject to the proprietary policies of the respective observatories. Each observatory will ensure that their data are archived according to their own standards.
10. Publications that use the Observatory and JWST results shall include both relevant acknowledgment statements, according to their relevant policies.
11. Joint observing proposals will be available starting with NRAO Cycle 24B (proposal deadline 31 January, 2024, with observations commencing in October 2024) and with JWST Cycle 3 (proposal deadline October 2023, with observations commencing in July 2024). Joint proposals will be permitted for the main call for JWST and both semester calls for the Observatory.
12. The agreement shall enter into force upon signature by all Parties on the date of the last signature, shall continue to be in force and renewed automatically for subsequent observing cycles, but may be modified at any time by mutual agreement of both parties. This agreement may be terminated by either party by notifying the other at least four months in advance of the next release of the Call for Proposals from either observatory.
13. Each observatory will establish the implementation details for joint proposals for each cycle into relevant implementation documents that shall be agreed upon between the NRAO Director and the STScI Director.

Signatures

For the Observatory,

For the Space Telescope Science Institute,