



Scientific User Requirements for the Gemini Phase I Applications Tool

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(Changes indicated by sidebars.)

(1) Introduction

Time on the Gemini telescopes is to be awarded through competitive processes within each of the partner countries. For queue mode applications (at least) this is a two-stage activity in which the information required for the first phase is the same as that for Gemini classical mode observing and resembles that for many conventional telescopes. This document describes the user requirements, from the scientific operations perspective, of the electronic submission tool which partners can use to streamline the Phase I application process.

Gemini Phase I applications serve several purposes :

- (a) (a) They comprise the material for scientific and technical evaluation by the National Time Allocation Committees (NTACs) and are the basis on which these 'allocate' time. (Strictly, the NTACs recommend a ranked list of proposals for allocation or queue loading to the ITAC and Gemini).
- (b) They summarize the required observing constraints (e.g. observing conditions, instrument mode, integration time; see section 3.1.3 for details) used by the NTACs and by the Gemini scheduler to balance the distribution of 'allocated' time amongst the various conditions (e.g. dark sky, best image quality).
- (c) They are used for successful queue applications, at least, to provide a framework in the observing database which is expanded upon in Phase II using the Observing Tool to completely define the required observations.

Phase I applications are submitted to the NTACs. Only those recommended by the NTACs for scheduling are subsequently transmitted to Gemini.

Although the NTACs, or National Gemini Offices (depending on national preference), may adopt alternative schemes for Phase I proposal submission, the information required by Gemini for schedule balancing and entry into the Phase II database must be transmitted electronically in the format generated by the Phase I tool for the process to be efficient. Thus Gemini, in concert with the partners, must define the format for Phase I submission. It is recognised that not all partners will require the same information (an example being the professional status of the applicants). Only the mandatory subset of this information required by Gemini (to be defined in an ICD) need be transmitted; additional information which does not conflict with this (e.g. by choice of the