



Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie

Auf dem Hügel 69 53121 Bonn Germany

Call for APEX Proposals

Summary

APEX is a project of the Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy (MPIfR) in scientific collaboration with the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and Universidad de Chile, the latter distributing 10% of the observing time for the Chilean science community in separate calls for proposals. Half of the MPIfR observing time is made available to the Max Planck Society (MPS) community, including MPIfR, and also to German universities and research institutes, all on a competitive basis. In the spirit of our search for future partners in the APEX projects, up to 150 hours of this time will be opened up for one year to non-German based scientists, in particular encouraging collaborations between non-German scientists and German-based MPS institutes and universities.

Proposals for large programs (100 or more hours per semester) with significant scientific impact are encouraged. Due to their high operational and observational load, they require a substantial MPIfR participation.

In this call, proposals for APEX observing requests for the period from 20 March to 24 July 2026 are solicited. Operations focus on observations in the night and morning shifts, hence on the best weather conditions, and observations are in general conducted between 20:00 and 12:00 local time, so that the corresponding visibilities of targets should be considered. Furthermore, the new AMKID camera is still in its commissioning phase and cannot yet be offered openly, but it is foreseeable that it will soon require large amounts of the good weather time at APEX. Therefore this semester specifically spectroscopic high frequency projects are encouraged.

Telescope and Instruments

APEX is a 12m submillimeter telescope situated at an altitude of 5107m on Llano de Chajnantor in Chile. For details on the facility and its operation we refer to <http://www.apex-telescope.org>.

The following receivers will be offered:

- the SEPIA receiver, provided by the Onsala Space Observatory (OSO), covers with three cartridges ALMA Band 5 (159-211 GHz, OSO PI receiver), and ALMA Band 7 and 9 (272-376 GHz, ~590-725 GHz, both facility). More information about SEPIA can be found at: <http://www.apex-telescope.org/ns/instruments/sepia>. **Note that due to ongoing upgrades the Band 7 part of SEPIA will not be available this semester.**
- The nFLASH receiver will provide two frequency channels, nFLASH230 (188-282 GHz) and nFLASH460 (~377-500 GHz). Simultaneous observations with both nFLASH channels are possible with a slightly reduced performance due to losses in the dichroics.

SEPIA, and nFLASH provide dual polarization 2SB observations, SEPIA690 and nFLASH230 with 8 GHz for each sideband and SEPIA180 with 4 GHz. For nFLASH460 an increased IF range of 4-10 GHz has been tested and can be used if required.

- The N3AR 3mm receiver installed in the C-cabin, offers in the 70 to 115 GHz atmospheric window dual polarization observations of both sidebands with 12 GHz



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bandwidth each. Typical receiver temperatures are 40-45 K (SSB). Observations together with nFLASH230 have been prepared, although with increased noise in this channel, depending on the adjustment of the dichroic filter, which is still being optimized and therefore such observations are still shared risk. For more information contact for observations wrowski@mpifr-bonn.mpg.de or more technical details bklein@mpifr-bonn.mpg.de.

- The LASMA 345 GHz heterodyne camera will be available. LASMA is a 7 pixel array receiver for the 345 GHz atmospheric window, providing sideband-separated data with up to 6 GHz each (IF range 4-10 GHz), tunable within 273 to 374 GHz. One of the pixels cannot be used currently and awaits repair during this semester.

Observing Time Estimates

Observing time estimates for the instruments should use the observing time calculators available on the APEX web site: <http://www.apex-telescope.org/ns/observing-time-calculators>. Note that there is also an estimator for On-The-Fly mapping available which should be used.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

Proposals should be submitted as a single PDF file using the templates provided at <http://www.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/apex/proposals>. They should contain as a minimum the following information:

- Principal Investigator and co-Investigators (+ institute and PI email)
- Abstract
- Scientific Justification (Up to 2 pages, 4 for large programs), plus 2 pages for figures and tables
- Source list (R.A., Decl., equinox J2000)
- Required weather conditions in terms of PWV
- Observing time estimates, based on the above mentioned time estimator
- Names of experienced observers willing to assist with the observations (observation setups and remote or at the site assistance)
- In case of multi-instrument proposals, a breakdown of time for each instrument is requested.

Proposals will be assessed on grounds of scientific merit. In proposals that combine MPIfR observing time with time contributed from a third party (e.g. Chile), it shall be stated how much time will be requested /has been granted from this source.

In general, it is expected that successful proposers of larger programs will support the observations either in Chile or remotely. Projects will be carried out as pool observations by observers from the MPIfR together with the APEX staff. **In case of significant contributions by observers to the project, it should be considered to include them into the resulting publications.** A health certificate is required for proposers interested to participate in the observations at the high altitude site (for information, contact the APEX Project Scientist Friedrich Wyrowski [wrowski@mpifr-bonn.mpg.de]). No travel support can be provided.

Deadline for submission of proposals

All proposals should be sent to apex@mpifr-bonn.mpg.de by Thursday, 19 February 2026 (18:00 CET).