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Announcement of Opportunity for China-Chile Joint Research Fund 2018

Dear Colleagues,

The China-Chile Joint Research Fund (CCJRF) had been initiated in 2015, and has successfully supported a total of six two-year projects involving China-Chile collaboration in astronomical research. This opportunity was provided based on the principles established in a 2013 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the National Commission of Scientific and Technological Research of the Republic of Chile (CONICYT), and the more specific guidelines described in an Agreement between the National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC), the Chinese Astronomical Society, the Chilean Astronomical Society (SOCHIAS) and CONICYT to selectively support research projects that involve collaborative research from both Chinese and Chilean astronomy communities. Its actual implementation depends on the relevant funding availability from CAS.

After the first two years, CASSACA's operating budget in 2017 was significantly reduced due to several reasons, mostly logistical. This had delayed funding for a few selected 2016 projects and prevented us from issuing a new AO on time in 2017. Based on this, CASSACA made its intention known to the Joint Committee of the two communities in early 2018 that the 2017 Call had to be skipped. Now, with the funding for CASSACA recovering to earlier levels, and new joint research projects emerging, we are pleased to announce this new AO for the fiscal year 2018, with a few modifications (see below). We expect to finish the selection before the year's end.

In response to this AO, funding requests for research projects proposed based on a collaboration including astronomers from both China and Chile will be considered. The PI (or Co-PI) of the proposal must be working in either country, regardless of his/her nationality, and the proposal's subject can be in any area of astronomical research, including observations, instrumental development, and theory. *In 2018, we also encourage areas of research related to site surveys for astronomical observatories, and experiments that help expanding capabilities in astro-engineering.* Duration of each proposed project should be **two years** at maximum, but *requests for extension of a previously-funded, successful project may be considered.*

The funding provided by CASSACA is not to be used for acquisition of any substantial hardware or purchasing telescope or computation times, but can be used as seed money for larger projects or to cover exploratory efforts. The funding requests may include costs of academic activities such as travel for observing, site surveys and scholarly exchanges, as well as small equipment purchases (such as filters), but not regular office supplies. There can be support for summer students or visitors, but not regular salaries for faculty or postdocs. The standard rate of overhead may be included as compensation for the administrative support at the host institution of the PI.



The proposals will be evaluated by a committee of experts consisting of both Chinese and Chilean astronomers, based mostly on the scientific merit and originality, and the potential contributions to the development of astronomy in the two countries. A Joint China-Chile Committee (JCCC) will rank the proposals, according to the evaluation by experts. Additional factors to be considered include the feasibility of the project, the competence and track record of the proposing person (or team), and the CAS funding availability. The final budget of selected proposals will be subject to a CASSACA review for feasibility and compliance with the CAS financial regulations. The PI should obtain the consent of his/her host institution in the form of an official letter, and will need to sign a contract with CASSACA before the grant is awarded. The expected funding level per project is approximately \$75,000 USD per year on average.

All proposals must include the following essential elements:

- 1) Proposal cover page, including:
 - a) Project title and abstract (<1000 words).
 - b) Area of Research (e.g. Planets, Stars, Interstellar Medium, Galaxies, Cosmology, Instrumentation, Experiment, Site surveys, etc.).
 - c) Names of project PI and Co-Is and their host institutions.
- 2) Scientific Justification (less than 8 single-spaced pages, including text, graphics, tables and references). Supporting evidence such as allocated observing times, approved experiment plans, etc. are welcome.
- 3) Implementation Plan of research including project duration (one or two years).
- 4) Itemized budget requested for the project with brief justifications (for each year if it is multi-year).
- 5) CV of the PI, a list of currently supported research programs, and a list of the proposer's publications relevant to the proposal.

All proposals should be submitted electronically to CASSACA's Santiago office at cassaca@nao.cas.cn, and will be acknowledged after the deadline (please submit an inquiry if no official acknowledgement is received on time). The deadline of submission is **October 31st, 2018**. Inquiries can be directed to Dr. Jiasheng Huang, Chief Scientist of CASSACA, at jhuang@nao.cas.cn, and/or Dr. Wei Wang, Deputy Director of CASSACA, at wangw@nao.cas.cn.