

## Talking Points on Revised Funding Model and Data Policy for Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST)

*The National Science Foundation (NSF) and Department of Energy (DOE) acknowledge the value of international participants for LSST. NSF and DOE are working to revise the participant model to focus on in-kind contributions instead of monetary contributions. The original LSST funding model sought international contributors for up to 25 percent of operations funding in exchange for data access rights equivalent to those held by U.S. researchers. To date, sufficient international contributions have not been identified. To ensure LSST operations planning proceeds without disruption, NSF and DOE are developing a new Data Access Rights and Operations Funding model for LSST.*

Following careful consideration of potential approaches, NSF and DOE (the agencies) agree on the following points to move LSST operations planning forward:

1. LSST will maintain the proprietary period for LSST data release and the open LSST alert stream with no proprietary period as previously planned---*i.e.*, no change.
2. The agencies have no plans to de-scope LSST operations and are working with their awardees (AURA and SLAC) on updated budget and operations planning.
3. Following agencies' approval, the LSST project team will soon publish data rights and data access policies for LSST.
4. International participants may enjoy the same data access rights as US scientists in exchange for in-kind contributions to the LSST construction project, facility operations, and/or related astrophysical resources as considered and agreed to jointly by the agencies (NSF and DOE).
5. A new LSST Resource Board, led by NSF and DOE, will oversee and coordinate in-kind contributions and provide a forum for project contributors to participate in the LSST resource planning. The details of that Resource Board will be developed over the next year.

## **To international participants with existing MOAs:**

MOAs that involve *funds* (*i.e.*, monetary contributions) for data rights will be frozen while the agencies, project, and international participants seek in-kind contributions as a replacement.

### *Talking points:*

- The agencies (NSF and DOE) recognize the importance of the contributions of the current PIs of international participants to the development of the LSST science collaborations and the LSST project through their efforts to date.
- NSF's and DOE's intent is for international participants to retain their status within the project through new agreements between their agencies (or institutions, if applicable) and NSF and DOE. The status of these international participants will remain unchanged until this process is completed by June 30, 2021.
- Implementation details of this new model are first being developed among NSF and DOE and their awardees, AURA and SLAC.
- Once those details are completed, we will work with international participants to explore possible in-kind contributions that might provide NSF and DOE sufficient value in exchange for rights and access to LSST proprietary data. NSF and DOE will consider most favorably proposed in-kind contributions that, for example, will offset NSF and DOE costs for operations and/or expand the resources available to the U.S. astrophysical and high energy physics communities.
- Examples of desirable in-kind contributions to LSST might include dedicated software development staff or computing resources that offset LSST operational costs, or access to complementary data sets or follow-up facilities.
- Existing MOAs that provide data rights to proprietary LSST data in exchange for *in-kind* (*i.e.*, non-monetary) considerations will be reassigned to NSF, DOE, or an NSF-designated agent and will be implemented. Beyond this, no other significant changes are expected from the original plans regarding in-kind contributions or LSST data rights.
- Monetary contributions to LSST operations will not be accepted for international participants to obtain rights or access to LSST proprietary data. In this in-kind model of contributions, no agreements will be handled by LSST Corporation (LSSTC). Instead, international participants will work with NSF, DOE, and their awardees (AURA and SLAC) to define in-kind contributions that will gain data rights and access.
- As the project is no longer accepting monetary contributions, NSF and DOE anticipate that any funds that LSSTC may have collected for LSST data rights will be returned by LSSTC.
- International participants will have a new point of contact (POC), either NSF, DOE, AURA, or SLAC, to be determined as appropriate.