

**To Australian Astronomers:**

****European Southern Observatory (ESO) Scientific Technical Committee (STC)****

**Under the Strategic Partnership between Australia and ESO, signed on 11 July 2017, Australia is entitled to representation on four ESO governance bodies: The ESO Council, Finance Committee (FC), Scientific Technical Committee (STC), and Users Committee (UC).**

**The Australian Government and Astronomy Australia Limited seek to ensure strong engagement between the astronomy community and ESO, so that Australia’s astronomy community can make the most of this unprecedented 10-year scientific partnership and meet the goals of the *Decadal Plan for Australian Astronomy 2016-2025*.**

**A vacancy has arisen for the role of Australia’s Observer on the STC, commencing from January 2021. The Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources has asked Astronomy Australia Ltd (AAL) to invite Australian astronomers to self‑nominate for this role, using the cover sheet at the end of this document.**

**The deadline for nominations to AAL is COB, Friday 2 October 2020.**

**Information on the STC role and the candidate attributes being sought is provided on the following page.**

**On receipt of nominations, AAL will conduct an internal merit-based short-listing process and will advise the department on the three most suitable candidates for the STC representative role. The department will forward details of the short-listed candidates to the ESO Council, with supporting documentation for each, including a *candidate statement* and 2-page *curriculum vitae*, in late October 2020.**

**At its meeting on 1-2 December 2020, the ESO Council will consider the candidates and select the Australian Observer to the STC, based on candidates’ merits and ESO’s need to ensure adequate coverage of relevant astronomical techniques and disciplines on each Committee.**

**Australia’s Observer to the STC will be appointed for a term of three (3) years, with the possibility of reappointment for a further three-year term. The selected representative must be available to attend all STC meetings during their appointment term, starting from the first STC meeting of 2021, expected to be in around mid-April 2021 (to be confirmed), and under usual circumstances would be held at ESO Headquarters, Garching, Germany.**

For reference, a listing of ESO Governing Bodies, rules, current membership, meeting dates and reports of previous meetings can be accessed at <http://www.eso.org/public/about-eso/committees.html>**.**

**There is no remuneration associated with participation on the ESO governing bodies. However, ESO covers reasonable travel and accommodation expenses for the Australian STC Observer to attend the meetings of the STC.**

**Australia’s representatives on ESO governing bodies also participate as *ex officio* members on the Australia-ESO Coordinating Group, convened by the department to ensure Australia presents a consistent, collaborative, and broadly representative position in its engagement with ESO governance bodies as a whole, and the ESO Council in particular. This Group meets up to four times per year, with most attendees participating by video link. Members engage with the astronomy community to ensure that its views are considered by the Group in advising on Australia’s position on matters relating to the ESO Strategic Partnership.**

**Scientific Technology Committee (STC) – Essential information:**

**Role**

**The ESO Scientific Technical Committee:**

* **advises the ESO Council and ESO Director General on policy matters of scientific and technical importance related to the planning and operation of ESO**
* **advises the Council and Director General on scientific priorities for projects and programmes, and the equipment, maintenance and upgrade of ESO facilities upon the request of the Council or the Director General**
* **assists ESO in informing the astronomical communities in the Member States about the status, background, and motivation for ESO’s scientific and technical planning**

**The recommendations of the STC to the ESO Council and Director General are taken by consensus.**

**The ESO provides the Secretariat functions for the STC.**

**Meetings**

**The STC normally meets twice a year, in advance of the regular meetings of the ESO Council. The STC Chair, in consultation with the Director General or President of Council, may convene extraordinary meetings, in which members are expected to participate.**

**Composition**

**The STC is composed of one member from each Member State and one from Chile, plus up to six (6) members-at-large who may be from non-Member States. The STC Chair is appointed annually by Council on the proposal of the Director General for no more than three consecutive years. At its first meeting each year, the STC selects from its members a Vice-Chair to replace the Chair when they are unable to fulfil their functions.**

**The STC Secretary and the ESO Executive (including the Director General and personnel necessary in relation to the relevant agenda items) also attend STC meetings.**

**STC candidate attributes**

**Nominees shall have proven high scientific-technical competence and, this year, ESO** would especially welcome expertise in the areas of:  **Interferometry and Adaptive Optics (AO) at optical/IR wavelengths; innovative operational models; data archiving; cosmology; mid-IR astrophysics, particularly relating to the Extremely Large Telescope (ELT), as these are currently the most pressing skills sought by the STC.**

**Nominees should preferably have a track record of international research or collaboration. Previous research or instrumentation engagement with ESO would be highly regarded.**

**Nominees should have a solid research standing, credibility in the astronomy community, and be affiliated with an Australian research institution, active in astronomy research.**

**A key aspect of this role is to represent and liaise with the Australian astronomy community on ESO‑related matters; therefore, nominees should have demonstrated effective communication, community representation and leadership.**

**We encourage nominations of all eligible scientists, including from groups traditionally underrepresented in these fields such as women and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.**

**Appointment term**

**STC members are appointed for three-year (staggered) terms so that approximately the same number retire every year. An STC member may be renewed for a second three-year term.**

**The full Rules of Procedure for the STC are available at:**

<http://www.eso.org/public/about-eso/committees/stc/docs/STC_RoPs_1513_rev2_final_internet.pdf>



****Call for self-nominations:****

****European Southern Observatory (ESO) Scientific Technical Committee (STC)****

Please submit this cover sheet together with your supporting documents by **COB Friday 2 October 2020** to: [applications@astronomyaustralia.org.au](mailto:applications@astronomyaustralia.org.au).

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| **Name**  **(Title, first name, family name, include post nominatives if preferred.)** |  |
| **Current Position** |  |
| **Institutional affiliation**  **Department or Centre; Institution; University, etc.** |  |
| **Work Address** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Phone / Mobile** |  |

**Please attach to this cover sheet for consideration by AAL and the ESO Council:**

1. **A brief statement, outlining in up to 500 words / one page, what you consider to be your strengths and suitability for the role of Australia’s Observer to the ESO Scientific Technical Committee, addressing:**
   1. **relevant candidate attributes, specialist expertise, or experience sought by ESO for the Scientific Technical Committee**

**and**

* 1. **your relevant strengths, experience and proposed approach in liaising with and representing the interests of the Australian astronomy community on the ESO STC**

1. **Your current condensed *Curriculum Vitae* – two (2) pages maximum, please, supporting your statement and the attributes sought.**

**I declare that I am willing and available to attend all international meetings of the ESO Scientific Technical Committee, for the duration of my appointment, and to undertake the necessary preparatory work and liaison with ESO, the astronomy community and the Australian government, if selected.**

**Signature Date**

**Name**