



Call for nominations for an Australian-based Cherenkov Telescope Array Science Lead

Applications for all positions close on Monday 30th October 2023, 8:00 PM AEDT. If openings remain after all applications received and completed by the deadline have been considered, late applications will be accepted.

[Astronomy Australia Limited](#) (AAL) is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee whose [members](#) are all Australian universities and research organisations with a significant astronomy research capability. Its core business is to manage programmes which provide astronomers with access to national astronomy infrastructure, including data and computing infrastructure.

AAL finances a portfolio of infrastructure projects and facilities from Australian Government funding. AAL oversees the progress of these projects and reports regularly on them to the Government.

Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory (CTAO)

The [CTAO](#) is the next generation ground-based observatory for gamma-ray astronomy at very high energies. The observatory, now under construction, will consist of over 100 telescopes at sites in Chile and the Canary Islands. The CTA is designed to be 10 times more sensitive than existing gamma-ray observatories, enabling it to address outstanding astrophysical problems like the origin of cosmic particles, and the nature of dark matter.

In 2018 AAL became a shareholder in CTAO gGmbH, the German company that is managing the pre-construction of the observatory and international negotiations are underway to launch a new entity, the CTAO European Research Infrastructure Consortium, to manage the construction and operation of the CTA.

As a result, Australia has two representatives on the Council of CTAO: James Murray, AAL Director of Programs is one representative, whilst the second is drawn from the Australian astronomy community. The term of the Australian astronomy community representative expires at the end of 2023, creating a vacancy.

The minimum requirements of the role are participation in CTAO Council meetings (at least three per year, held in Europe), and CTAO advisory committee meetings (which occur on an ad hoc basis). Attendance at these meetings is generally via videoconference, but AAL will fund reasonable travel expenses associated with attending one in-person meeting per year if requested. The term of this appointment is two years.

Applications

To be considered for the role, applicants should demonstrate their:

- ongoing interest in the CTAO;
- track record of research or technical experience in areas of relevance to CTA;
- ability to liaise with the wider Australian community.

Should you wish to be considered for the role of Australian representative on CTAO, please email applications@astronomyaustralia.org.au with a maximum three-page application including:

- A covering letter describing your expertise as outlined above
- A brief CV
- Any relevant conflicts of interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact James Murray, AAL's Director of Programs, if you have any questions regarding this process.

AAL is committed to equity and diversity and encourages applications from everyone with the appropriate expertise and skills.

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