

15 September 2015

The uGMRT phase-II system is now getting ready for internal release for users from NCRA. This document gives the plans and lays down the guidelines for the utilisation of the system :

1. Technical specifications relevant for the uGMRT phase-II system will be made available in a short, formal document, to be prepared by Dean, GO. To be released on 15th Sep. A copy of this document is attached alongwith. This document is a sub-set of the document giving the technical specifications and goals that are aimed for in the final uGMRT sytem.
2. Proposals for internal use will be considered for running concurrently with GTAC cycle 29 (~ 22 Oct 2015 onwards) for ~ 5.5 months (22 weeks). These uGMRT-II Internal Release (IR) proposals will be taken up in two cycles of 11 weeks each, to facilitate early and useful feedback from the process. Longer proposals that are allowed to run for the full duration of 22 weeks, will be reviewed at the 11 week boundary.
3. Timeline for submission of the uGMRT-II IR proposals will be 2 weeks after the date of the formal release of this document, i.e. by 30th September 2015.
4. The uGMRT-II IR proposals are open only to NCRA members. These include regular staff, students and post-docs. The PI of the proposal should be a regular staff member.
5. The uGMRT IR proposals will be reviewed by an internal committee (within NCRA) to be constituted by Centre Director NCRA. The committee will complete the review within a period of 2 weeks i.e. by 15th October 2015. For specific situations where the committee finds it difficult to take a decision, the committee may consult outside experts.
6. The proposals will fall in the category 2 (Internal Release) that was outlined in the document of June 2013, titled "Early Science Proposals related to shared risk observations using the Upgraded-GMRT prior to its formal release to GTAC". The main features of this category of proposals can be summarised as follows :
  - (i) seek to use a system / set of systems of uGMRT that have reached a reasonable level of maturity and stability, but need to be debugged at the user level for establishing proper and reliable functioning -- the uGMRT phase-II system being released on 15th Sep 2015 meets this definition.
  - (ii) the release of such systems to be formalised by the GSG -- the uGMRT phase-II system meets this defintion, as it was the GSG meeting of 8 June 2015 that set the target specifications and date for this release.
  - (iii) the proposal should clearly spell out the "deliverables" to the observatory : which of the released uGMRT systems will be tested, to what level, and how the results will be summarised (e.g. technical report), whether new procedures or algorithms will be developed for the observatory etc.
  - (iv) the timescale for the activity outlined in the proposal should be 2-6 months, not much longer (nor much shorter).
  - (v) the science goal of the proposal should also be clearly spelt out and it should be clearly argued that the goal can NOT be met with the existing GMRT

system that is released for regular GTAC use, as defined in the current version of the GMRT Status Document of June 2015, which can be found at :  
[http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in:8081/~secr-ops/sch/c29webfiles/GMRT\\_status\\_doc\\_June2015.pdf](http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in:8081/~secr-ops/sch/c29webfiles/GMRT_status_doc_June2015.pdf)

(vi) the proposal should clearly spell out the plan of action that the proposers will follow, both for the technical aspects and for the science aspects.

#### 7. Format of the uGMRT-II IR proposals :

As a minimum, the proposals should have the following subsections :

- (i) Title and Abstract
- (ii) Scientific Justification : what kind of early science is aimed for.
- (iii) uGMRT Technical Justification : how it can NOT be done with existing GMRT systems (as specified in item 6(v) above).
- (iv) Technical Deliverables : which uGMRT systems will it test; what will be the benefit to the observatory; what formal output can be expected.
- (v) Proposed format of the observations; timelines and total requirement.

The proposal should be submitted as two separate pdf files : part I that addresses items (i), (ii), (iii) and (v); and part II that includes item (iv).

8. The proposals should be submitted as 2 pdf files (as described in #7 above) by email to dirncra account.

#### 9. Total number of hours to be set aside for uGMRT-II IR proposals :

A TOTAL of about 200 hrs will be set aside for these proposals (~10-12% of normal GTAC allotted time). These will be from a combination of fixed slots that will be marked out in the GTAC schedule (providing adequate coverage for all LSTs) + white slots in the final schedule that is prepared.

It will be required to limit individual proposals to ~20-40 hrs, so that upto about 5-10 such proposals can be accommodated over the 2 cycles of 11 weeks each (exact figures would be fine tuned depending on the number of proposals received).

#### 10. Data back-up :

The data acquired will NOT be formally archived in the GOA system (the observatory will try, on a best effort basis, to have an informal back-up copy of the data). Proposers will thus have the final responsibility of backing up and saving their data.

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