

中科院 南美天文中心 (智利)
Camino El Observatorio #1515
Las Condes, Santiago, Chile 7591245
Phone: (56-2) 2977 1149
E-Mail: cassaca@nao.cas.cn
Web: <http://www.cassaca.org>

Announcement of Opportunity for China-Chile Joint Research Fund 2021 (Issue date: 9th April 2021)

1. Outline

The China-Chile Joint Research Fund (CCJRF) has been implemented since 2015, and has successfully supported more than a dozen one or two-year projects based on China-Chile collaboration in astronomical research. This opportunity is provided based on 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, now ANID), and more specific guidelines described in an agreement between the National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC, host institution of CASSACA in Beijing), the Chinese Astronomical Society, the Chilean Astronomical Society (SOCHIAS) and CONICYT.

The last AO of the Joint Research Fund was announced in December 2019 and the Call was successful. Due to logistics factors, it was not possible to open the same Call in 2020. Now, despite possible future delays, we have decided to issue this AO of 2021 fiscal year to both Chinese and Chilean astronomy communities. For this AO, funding requests for research based on collaborative work between astronomers from China and Chile are solicited. The PI of a proposal can be based in either country, with the Co-PI from the other. The subject of research can be in any area of astronomy, including observation, theory and instrument development. We also encourage proposals on site testing for astronomical observatories, and projects that help expanding capabilities in astro-engineering.


2. Funding

Each project can be supported for up to two years, and requests for expansion of currently-funded, successful projects may be considered. The funds provided by CASSACA are expected to be used either as seed money for larger projects or to cover exploratory efforts. The estimated funding level for each approved project is equivalent to \$75,000 USD per year at maximum, and we expect to fund 3-4 projects for this call. The possible expense items include:

- 1) support for exchanges of students and/or visitors, excluding regular salaries for faculty or postdocs;
- 2) small equipment purchases (such as optical filters), but not including regular office equipment/supplies;
- 3) academic activities such as travel to conferences and observing, small scientific meetings/workshops;
- 4) site testing activities for astronomical observatories;
- 5) a standard rate of overhead as compensation for the administrative support at the host institution(s) of the PIs and Co-PIs.

3. Evaluation and Assignment of Funds

The Joint China-Chile Committee (JCCC) is composed of Chinese and Chilean astronomers with the mission to define the framework of cooperative research and evaluate the proposals to be supported by the Joint Fund. For this



AO, each proposal will be evaluated by at least four experts, with equal representation of Chinese and Chilean reviewers. In order to avoid conflict of interests, PI, Co-PI and Co-Is of proposals in this year's Call are not allowed to take part in the evaluations.

The evaluation criteria are given by these weights:

a) For Scientific Projects:

- 60% Merit of the project,
- 20% Scientific/technical expertise of the team, and its qualifications to conduct the project,
- 20% Feasibility and budget appropriateness

b) For Instrumentation/site testing Projects

- 50% Merit of the project
- 20% Scientific/technical expertise of the team, and its qualifications to conduct the project
- 30% Feasibility and budget appropriateness

The final ranking will be reached by the JCCC with consensus, and will be sent to the Director of CASSACA for consideration. The final selection will be communicated to the JCCC made public on a dedicated CASSACA webpage. The Director will be responsible to verify that the budgets of approved proposals comply with the financial rules of the funding agencies, and communicate to JCCC the written procedure, timescale and rendering of the allocated fund and expected date for transferring the funds to the grantees. Once notified, the Chilean PI or Co-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. One mid-term report (for 2-year projects) and one final report will be required to be submitted to CASSACA for tracking and progress evaluation purposes.

4. Proposal Structure

All proposals must include the following essential elements:

1) **Proposal cover page** (one page maximum), including:

- a) Project title and an abstract.
- b) Type of project (Scientific or Instrumentation) and Area of Research (e.g., Planets, Stars, Interstellar Medium, Galaxies, Cosmology, Instrumentation, Experiment, Site surveys, etc.).
- c) Project duration (one or two years)
- d) Names and titles of PI, Co-PI and Co-Is, including their home institutions.

2) **Scientific Justification** (up to five single-spaced pages, including text, graphics, tables and references, using font size 11pt or larger). Supporting evidence such as allocated observing times, approved experiment plans, etc. are welcome.

3) **Implementation Plan** of research including project duration (up to two pages).

4) **Itemized budget** requested for the project with brief justifications (for each year if it is multi-year).

5) **CV of the PI and Co-PI**, a list of currently supported research programs, and a list of the proposer's publications relevant to the proposal. (2 pages maximum).

5. Submission

All proposals should be submitted electronically to CASSACA's Santiago office at cjrf@nao.cas.cn, and will be acknowledged after the deadline. The deadline of submission is **June 1st, 2021**. Inquiries can be directed to Dr. Jiasheng Huang, Chief Scientist of CASSACA, at jhuang@nao.cas.cn, or Dr. Wei Wang, Deputy Director of CASSACA, at wangw@nao.cas.cn.