

Dear Dr McMahon,

Following the evaluation by the VISTA Public Surveys Panel, the Observing Programmes Committee has recommended to ESO the selection of your Public Survey proposal:

“The Vista Hemisphere survey (VHS)”

However, please note that the final decision about allocation of time to this proposal is subject to review and approval of the associated Survey Management Plan (SMP) whose objective is to define the information necessary to carry out the Public Surveys in Service Mode. The SMP must define the observing strategy, the survey data calibration needs, the data reduction process, the manpower and hardware capabilities provided by the PI and the survey team, the data quality assessment process, and the data product delivery to the Virtual Observatory (VO).

The guidelines for the preparation of the survey management plan – VISTA and the latex template are now available at:

<http://www.eso.org/observing/webone.html>

The submission, review process, iterations and final approval of the SMP will follow and proceed according to the following timeline:

- The deadline for submission of the SMP by the PIs of the ESO Public Surveys is noon CET on the 16.02.07. SMP is to be sent to the team leader of EST (marnabol@eso.org).
- The EST review ends on the 07.03.07, with feedbacks sent to PIs so that synergies and optimization between surveys can be implemented and the SMP revised.
- Submission of revised SMP by noon CET on the 02.04.07.
- End of SMP review and approval by ESO DG by the end of May 2007.

When preparing your SMP, you must take into account the recommendation of the VISTA public survey panel, which are detailed below. Please note the priority of implementation of your proposal as formulated by the VISTA PSP.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you need any additional information,

With Best Regards

Dr M. Arnaboldi,

ESO – USD

Report by the VISTA PSP

This proposal was well received by the PSP panel. Survey of the whole southern hemisphere, 1 magnitude deeper than 2MASS will provide a wealth of important scientific results, several of which are well described in the proposal. The authors have improved their original proposal by combining with DES and clarifying the areas that would be covered in the various bands: (a) VHS-DES 120s in JHK, over 4000+ sq. deg., ZY from DES. (b) VHS-ATLAS 60s in YJHK, over 5000+ sq. deg., Z from VST-ATLAS. (c) VHS-GPS 60s in JK, over 8000+ sq. deg., $5 < b < 30$ galactic latitude (not including areas covered by the Sutherland, Minniti, Cioni proposals). The panel welcomed the letter from the DES director and the offer to image that area in the Y-band.

Observing Strategy

This is the only public survey that will take advantage of relatively poor seeing in the range 1 to 1.5 arcsec.

The team should revise the observing strategy considering that VISTA can observe 10 hrs per night on average.

Management

This proposal has a rather generic description of the data handling aspects of the program, which is a concern, given the amount of data that this survey project will collect and the complicated data reduction required in this study. This must be addressed in greater detail in the SMP.

VISTA PSP ranking

VISTA PSP recommends this program with rank 1/6. We ask to carry out this program for 5 years, and the VISTA PSP will follow the yearly review and may request to modify strategy to optimize survey goal.