

# Announcement of Opportunity: GTC Observing Time for the US and Chilean Community

**Release Date:** July 2, 2026

**Letter of Intent (LoI) Deadline:** August 7, 2026

**Formal GTC TAC Deadline:** Expected October 1, 2026

Through the **Rubin Observatory International In-kind Program**, a special allocation of observing time on the **10.4-meter Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC)** is being made available to the US and Chilean astronomical community. This time is contributed jointly via the Spanish in-kind initiatives **ESP-BCM-S5** (Barcelona-Madrid) and **ESP-IAC-S1** (Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias). Approximately 2 nights will be available through this opportunity each semester.

This program offers a unique pathway for US- and Chile-based investigators to secure high-impact observations on a premier 10m-class facility.

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## How the Process Works

Because this time is integrated into the Spanish national allocation, proposals must follow a specific, collaborative workflow to be submitted to the Spanish Time Allocation Committee (TAC):

1. **Submit a Letter of Intent (LoI):** Principal Investigators (PIs) from the US or Chilean community must submit a brief LoI outlining their teams, science case, targets, and instrument requirements.
2. **Technical Review & Matchmaking:** The Spanish In-kind Coordination Team will evaluate the LoIs for technical feasibility and capacity constraints. Successful LoIs will be paired with a Spanish host institution scientist who will serve as the formal PI in the submitted proposal to the Spanish TAC.
3. **Full Proposal Submission:** Paired teams will jointly prepare a full proposal to be submitted to the Spanish TAC by the strict proposal deadline, expected on **October 1, 2026**.

**Note on Scientific Scope:** It is expected that proposals focusing on Cosmology will be paired with and managed by the Barcelona-Madrid LSST groups. Proposals covering all other astronomical disciplines (transients, exoplanets, galactic, extragalactic, etc.) will be paired with and managed by the IAC. However, the circumstances will depend on demand, the specific science case presented, staff availability, etc.

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## Key Information & Links

- **Submission Portal:** Letters of Intent must be submitted directly via the official portal: <https://lsst.ice.csic.es/>
- **Eligibility:** Open to all astronomers affiliated with US institutions and the Chilean astronomical community.
- **Available Instruments:** Time can be requested for any standard, currently operating GTC instruments (including OSIRIS+, EMIR, MEGARA, and HiPERCAM). The final availability of instruments will be released in the GTC Call for Proposals for the applicable semester.
- **Capacity Cap:** To ensure manageable workloads, the total time requested across all promoted Lols will be capped at three times the available allocation for the semester. Technical feasibility and scientific merit will dictate the down-selection if this cap is exceeded.
- **Note on Collaboration Terms:** *A Spanish co-PI is a procedural necessity required to submit proposals to the Spanish TAC. This program also aims to foster deeper international scientific connections, and more integrated collaborations are encouraged wherever appropriate, though they are not a requirement.*

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## Important Timeline Milestones

| Milestone                                | Date              |
|--|-------------------|
| Announcement of Opportunity Released     | July 2, 2026      |
| Letters of Intent (Lol) Due              | August 7, 2026    |
| Matchmaking & Feasibility Notifications  | Late August 2026  |
| Official GTC Call for Proposals Opens    | September 1, 2026 |
| Hard Deadline for Spanish TAC Submission | October 1, 2026   |

**Future Opportunities & Program Duration:** This special time allocation is part of a long-term commitment through the Rubin Observatory International In-kind Program, with an expected duration of approximately 10 years spanning the lifetime of the Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST). Following this inaugural cycle, calls for proposals will be issued on a recurring basis aligned with standard semester schedules.

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## Questions?

For questions regarding eligibility, general process flow, or specific program

opportunities, please contact Steven Margheim at [steven.margheim@noirlab.edu](mailto:steven.margheim@noirlab.edu). For technical instrument capabilities, please consult the GTC website or use the contacts available in the submission portal.