

Newsletter 16-08

Issue 16-08, March 27, 2016

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NEOWISE 2016 DATA RELEASE

The Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (NEOWISE) and the Infrared Processing and Analysis Center (IPAC) announce the NEOWISE 2016 Data Release.

The NEOWISE 2016 Data Release includes all data acquired during the second year of the NEOWISE Reactivation mission (Mainzer et al. 2014, ApJ, 792, 30), 13 December 2014 to 13 December 2015. These data are combined with the Year 1 NEOWISE data into a single archive that contains approximately 5.1 million 3.4 and 4.6 micron images and a database of over 38.1 billion source detections extracted from those images.

NEOWISE scanned the entire sky nearly four complete times during the first

two years of survey operations, with approximately six months between survey passes. Twelve or more independent 3.4 and 4.6 micron exposures are made on each point of the sky during each survey epoch. Therefore, the NEOWISE archive is a time-domain resource for extracting multiple, independent thermal flux and position measurements of solar system small bodies, as well as background galactic and extragalactic sources.

A quick guide to the NEOWISE data release, data access instructions and supporting documentation is available at

<http://wise2.ipac.caltech.edu/docs/release/neowise/> [1].

Access to the NEOWISE data products is available via the on-line and API services of the NASA/IPAC Infrared Science Archive

(<http://irsa.ipac.caltech.edu> [2]).

NEOWISE utilizes the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) spacecraft that surveyed the sky in 2010, and was placed into hibernation in February 2011 following the completion of its primary mission. The spacecraft was brought out of hibernation in September 2013, and renamed NEOWISE with a mission to detect and characterize asteroids and comets, and to learn more about the population of near-Earth objects that could pose an impact hazard to the Earth. Survey observations began on December 13, 2013, and the first candidate solar system moving object detection tracklets were reported to the IAU Minor Planet Center two weeks after the survey start. Three deliveries of tracklets have been made each week since that time, yielding over 300,000 confirmed detections of nearly 19,000 different solar system objects to date.

NEOWISE is a project of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory/California Institute of

Technology. NEOWISE is funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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EXOPLANET BIOSIGNATURES WORKSHOP WITHOUT WALLS

A NExSS and Astrobiology Program Joint Workshop

The NASA Nexus for Exoplanet System Science (NExSS) and Astrobiology Program are hosting an **Exoplanet Biosignatures Workshop Without Walls** to review, frame, and advance the science and technology of remotely detectable biosignatures for the search for life on planets around other stars. Future exoplanet observations will soon focus on the search for life beyond the Solar System. Biosignatures to be sought are those with global, potentially detectable, impacts on a planet. Biosignatures occur in an environmental context in which geological, atmospheric, and stellar processes and interactions may work to enhance, suppress or mimic these biosignatures. The workshop will bring together scientists from astronomy, planetary science, Earth sciences, heliophysics, biology, biogeochemistry, and instrument/mission development.

When/Where:

mid-April, 2016: Pre-workshop online activities to commence

July 27-29, 2016: In-person workshop (and online participation), Seattle, WA

Website:

<http://nai.nasa.gov/calendar/workshop-without-walls-exoplanet-biosignatures/> [3]

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SBAG 15 MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear SBAG community,

The SBAG 15 meeting is scheduled for June 28-30, 2016, hosted at APL in Laurel, MD. Some logistical details are still being finalized, but a draft agenda is now available online:

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/meetings/> [4]

The SBAG 15 meeting is also in the NASA Conference Tracking System, with NCTS # 24436-16. If you typically use the NASA Conference Tracking System for your travel, or have a different travel authorization processes for your institution, please follow those usual procedures.

Also, I'd like to say thank you to the many members of the SBAG community who contributed to the generation of the SBAG Goals Document over the last year, through serving on the committees, reviewing the drafts during community comment periods, and contributing feedback and comments. The final document is available online:

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/goals> [5]/

Best wishes,

Nancy Chabot

SBAG Chair

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NOAO 2016B OBSERVING PROPOSALS DUE 31 MARCH

Dear Colleague:

Proposal forms and information for observing time requests for the 2016B semester (August 2016 - January 2017) are available on the NOAO web page:

<http://ast.noao.edu/observing/proposal-info> [6]

Time requests for 2016B may be made for Gemini North and South, Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory (including SOAR and SMARTS), and Kitt Peak National Observatory (including WIYN). Public-access time with the Subaru and AAT telescopes is also available through time-exchange agreements.

The Call for Proposals is available in HTML at

<http://ast.noao.edu/observing/call-for-proposals-2016b> [7]

and as a self-contained, downloadable PDF document at

<http://ast.noao.edu/sites/default/files/cfp2016b.pdf> [8]

Observing proposals for all facilities available through NOAO in 2016B are due by Thursday evening, 31 March 2016, 11:59pm MST. The Gemini Observatory has issued a Call for Proposals for 2016B. A time exchange agreement continues with Subaru. For more information see:

<http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/observing-gemini/2016b-call-proposals> [9]

Through an exchange between CTIO and the Australian Astronomical Observatory, five nights at the Anglo-Australian Telescope (AAT) are available in 2016B. For more information, see:

<http://www.noao.edu/gateway/aat/> [10]

NASA and NSF have entered into a Partnership for Exoplanet Research to support community use of the NOAO share of WIYN telescope time. Proposals for non-exoplanet research are being accepted in 2016B as well, but will be eligible for scheduling only if there is time available after the approved exoplanet proposals are scheduled. For more information, see:

<http://ast.noao.edu/observing/wiyn-exoplanets-2016b> [11]

Several new observing resources have become available to the NOAO community. Recently added instruments or modes include:

- GRACES, feeding a hi-res CFHT spectrograph from Gemini North
- DSSI (speckle camera) as a visitor instrument at Gemini North
- Phoenix (hi-res n-IR spectrograph), visiting at Gemini South
- Mosaic 3.0 with LBNL CCDs at the KPNO 4-m
- KOSMOS Spectrograph, including MOS at the KPNO 4-m
- ARCoIRIS (n-IR imaging spectrograph) at the CTIO 4-m
- COSMOS Spectrograph, including MOS at the CTIO 4-m
- DSSI (speckle camera) for exoplanet programs at the WIYN 3.5-m
- ODI, with upgraded 40x48' focal plane at the WIYN 3.5-m

For information about all telescopes and instruments available through NOAO, including links to instrument pages and manuals, see:

<http://www.noao.edu/noaoprop/help/facilities.html> [12]

PhD thesis observations require a web form to be filled out by the student's advisor. Without this letter, students are ineligible for travel support. The form needs to be submitted by Monday, 4 April 2016.

Please see:

<http://www.noao.edu/noaoprop/thesis/> [13]

Proposals For Gemini (including Subaru) MUST use the Phase-I Tool, known as PIT. PIT is a downloadable application and is available at:

<http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/observing-gemini/proposal-submission/phase-i-tool-pit> [14]

Proposals for all other NOAO resources should use the NOAO Web Proposal Form available at: <http://www.noao.edu/noaoprop/> [15]

Proposals can be completed and submitted through the web form.

Optionally, a customized version of the form can be downloaded, completed locally, and then uploaded at: <http://www.noao.edu/noaoprop/submit/> [16]

Investigators requesting time with both Gemini and other NOAO resources will need to complete both a PIT submission and the NOAO proposal form.

Questions about the proposal form or the proposal process may be directed to noaoprop-help@noao.edu [17]. Questions specific to an observing run may be sent to the site, either ctio@noao.edu [18] or kpno@noao.edu [19].

Gemini related questions may be sent to nssc@noao.edu [20] or through the Gemini Helpdesk at:

<http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/helpdesk/submit-general-helpdesk-request> [21]

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ALMA CYCLE 4 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) is pleased to announce the ALMA Cycle 4 Call for Proposals for scientific observations to be scheduled from October 2016 to September 2017.

Deadline: 21 April 15:00 UT.

<https://almascience.nrao.edu/proposing/call-for-proposals> [22]

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A) POSTDOCTORAL SCIENTIST

Planetary Radar Group

Arecibo, Puerto Rico

<http://dps.aas.org/content/postdoctoral-scientist> [23]

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Send submissions to:

Anne Verbiscer, DPS Secretary (dpssec@aaas.org) [24]

To unsubscribe visit <http://aas.org/unsubscribe> [25] or email unsubscribe@aaas.org [26].

To change your address email address@aas.org [27]

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Links:

- [1] <http://wise2.ipac.caltech.edu/docs/release/neowise/>
- [2] <http://irsa.ipac.caltech.edu/>
- [3] <http://nai.nasa.gov/calendar/workshop-without-walls-exoplanet-biosignatures/>
- [4] <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/meetings/>
- [5] <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/goals>
- [6] <http://ast.noao.edu/observing/proposal-info>
- [7] <http://ast.noao.edu/observing/call-for-proposals-2016b>
- [8] <http://ast.noao.edu/sites/default/files/cfp2016b.pdf>
- [9] <http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/observing-gemini/2016b-call-proposals>
- [10] <http://www.noao.edu/gateway/aat/>
- [11] <http://ast.noao.edu/observing/wiyn-exoplanets-2016b>
- [12] <http://www.noao.edu/noaoprop/help/facilities.html>
- [13] <http://www.noao.edu/noaoprop/thesis/>
- [14] <http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/observing-gemini/proposal-submission/phase-i-tool-pit>
- [15] <http://www.noao.edu/noaoprop/>
- [16] <http://www.noao.edu/noaoprop/submit/>
- [17] <mailto:noaoprop-help@noao.edu>
- [18] <mailto:ctio@noao.edu>
- [19] <mailto:kpno@noao.edu>
- [20] <mailto:nssc@noao.edu>
- [21] <http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/helpdesk/submit-general-helpdesk-request>
- [22] <https://almascience.nrao.edu/proposing/call-for-proposals>
- [23] <http://dps.aas.org/content/postdoctoral-scientist>
- [24] <mailto:dpssec@aas.org>
- [25] <http://aas.org/unsubscribe>
- [26] <mailto:unsubscribe@aas.org>
- [27] <mailto:address@aas.org>