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Scientific Community, SPC, SSAC and  
Working Groups

Our Ref: ESA-SCI-DIR-050

Madrid, 04/09/2023

## **Subject: INTEGRAL Announcement of Opportunity for AO-21 Cycle Observations Proposals**

Dear Colleague,

I am very pleased to invite you to respond to the 21<sup>st</sup> “Announcement of Opportunity” by submitting proposals for observations to be performed with the International Gamma-ray Astrophysics Laboratory (INTEGRAL) satellite.

The gamma-ray observatory INTEGRAL is the second medium-sized mission of ESA’s Horizon 2000 Science Programme. It was launched on a Proton rocket on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2002. During their meeting on 7 March 2023, ESA’s Science Programme Committee (SPC) confirmed the continued science operations of INTEGRAL until the end of 2024. This could potentially be the final opportunity to conduct your scientific research utilising new observational data collected with this unique facility.

INTEGRAL offers astronomers a unique opportunity to perform high resolution spectroscopy in the energy range from 20 keV to 8 MeV (Spectrometer SPI) and high angular resolution imaging in the energy range from 20 keV to 10 MeV (Imager IBIS). Concurrent monitoring of high energy sources is performed by the co-aligned monitors in the 3 keV to 35 keV X-ray band (X-ray Monitor JEM-X) and in the optical wavelengths (V, 500 – 600 nm) by the Optical Monitoring Camera OMC.

This Announcement solicits proposals for observations to be carried out in 2024 offering about 21 Ms scientific observing time. Proposers from all over the world are welcome to participate. All proposals will be subject to an independent peer review by the INTEGRAL Time Allocation Committee (TAC). Potential proposers are expected to prepare and submit proposals in electronic form by the deadline given below using the INTEGRAL Proposal Generation Tool software. The documentation, proposal submission and support software for this Announcement are being made available via the Internet at: <http://integral.esac.esa.int/>.

The key milestones for this Announcement are:

- Release of Announcement of Opportunity: 4 September 2023
- Due date for Proposals: 29 September 2023 (14:00 CEST)
- Meeting of the Time Allocation Committee (TAC): 24-26 October 2023
- Start AO-21 cycle of observation (duration 12 months): 1 January 2024

I wish you success with your proposals to use the INTEGRAL observatory.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carole G. Mundell".

Prof. Carole Mundell  
Director of Science

Copy: M. Kissler-Patig, E. Kuulkers, M. Ehle, L. Colangeli