

## Call for nominations for an Australian-based Cherenkov Telescope Array Science Lead

Applications close on Tuesday 5th October 2021, 5PM AEST. Late applications will not be accepted.

[Astronomy Australia Limited](#) (AAL) is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee whose [members](#) are all Australian universities and research organisations with a significant astronomy research capability. Its core business is to manage programmes which provide astronomers with access to national astronomy infrastructure, including data and computing infrastructure.

AAL finances a portfolio of infrastructure projects and facilities from Australian Government funding. AAL oversees the progress of these projects and reports regularly on them to the Government.

### Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory (CTAO)

The [CTAO](#) is the next generation ground-based observatory for gamma-ray astronomy at very high energies. The observatory, now under construction, will consist of over 100 telescopes at sites in Chile and the Canary Islands. The CTA is designed to be 10 times more sensitive than existing gamma-ray observatories, enabling it to address outstanding astrophysical problems like the origin of cosmic particles, and the nature of dark matter.

In 2018 AAL became a shareholder in CTAO gGmbH, the German company that is managing the pre-construction of the observatory and international negotiations are underway to launch a new entity, the CTAO European Research Infrastructure Consortium, to manage the construction and operation of the CTA.

As a result, Australia has two representatives on the Council of CTAO: Mita Brierley, AAL Chief Business Officer is one representative, whilst the second is drawn from the Australian astronomy community. The term of the Australian astronomy community representative expires at the end of 2021, creating a vacancy on the committee.

The minimum requirements of the role are participation in CTAO Council meetings (at least three per year, held in Europe), and CTAO advisory committee meetings (which occur on an ad hoc basis). Attendance of advisory committee meetings is via videoconference with AAL supporting one representative to attend each CTAO Council meeting in person. The term of this appointment is two years.

## Applications

To be considered for the role, applicants should demonstrate their:

- ongoing interest in the CTAO;
- track record of research or technical experience in areas of relevance to CTA;
- ability to liaise with the wider Australian community.

Should you wish to be considered for the role of Australian representative on CTAO, please email [applications@astronomyaustralia.org.au](mailto:applications@astronomyaustralia.org.au) with a maximum three-page application including:

- A covering letter describing your expertise relevant to the committee terms of reference
- A brief CV
- Any relevant conflicts of interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact [Mita Brierley](#), AAL's Chief Business Officer, if you have any questions regarding this process.

AAL is committed to equity and diversity and encourages applications from everyone with the appropriate expertise and skills.

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