Astronomy Australia Ltd.

LSST SCIENCE LEAD NOMINATION

Call for nominations to lead Australia's science engagement with the Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST)

Applications for all positions close on Thursday 5th November, 9:00 AM AEDT.

If openings remain after all applications received by the deadline have been considered, late applications will 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.

Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST)

The LSST aims to construct the deepest, widest image of the Universe ever produced, while also detecting new transient sources, with a ten year survey of the southern sky. The NSF-DOE Vera C. Rubin Observatory is conducting the LSST using a specially designed 8.4 m diameter telescope in Chile with an extremely wide field of view.

AAL has negotiated a package of in-kind contributions towards the software, data processing and archiving requirements of LSST, in exchange for data access rights for 47 Australian-based Principal Investigators (PI) and a further 188 Junior Associates (JA). A combination of a 3 year ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) grant to UNSW, as well as NCRIS funding is being used to cover the costs of these in-kind contributions until mid-2027, and a new LIEF bid has been submitted to grow the scope of the contributions as well as the number of Australian data rights holders. AAL funds Australian membership of the LSST Discovery Alliance, which facilitates maximising science from the LSST via software development, ECR fellowships and training, and funding of workshops.

The term of the Australian LSST Science Lead who heads the Australian science engagement with LSST, Rubin Observatory, and the LSST Discovery Alliance expires at the end of 2026, creating a vacancy. Key attributes for this role include:

- Demonstrated leadership within LSST science and/or governance networks.
- Demonstrated leadership within a key LSST science area.
- Demonstrated ability to coordinate large funding applications.
- Demonstrated ability to liaise with the wider Australian community.

The term of this appointment is two years. The minimum requirements of the role are participation in Rubin Observatory Community Workshops (usually held In August each year in the USA and on-line), and relevant Science Collaboration meetings. AAL aims to support attendance at the workshop in person where possible. The Australian LSST Science Lead also serves in an ex-officio capacity as Chair of the AAL LSST Management Committee (ALManaC).

Applications

Should you wish to be considered for the role of Australian Science Lead for LSST, please email Stuart.Ryder@astronomyaustralia.org.au (cc: info@astronomyaustralia.org.au) with a maximum three-page application that includes:

- A covering letter describing your expertise relevant to LSST science and the science you are doing/will do with the LSST;
- A brief CV, including any grants awarded;
- Any relevant conflicts of interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr Stuart Ryder, AAL's LSST Program Manager if you have any questions regarding this position.

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