People

NSF’s NOIRLab is dedicated to employing diverse and talented staff, employing around 450 staff members, many of whom will be trained by NOIRLab through internships, student programs and postdoctoral research fellowships to become the scientific and technical leaders of tomorrow.

Community outreach is a huge part of NOIRLab’s mission, and our scientists visit schools to bring the excitement of astronomy to the classroom. In particular, NOIRLab’s staff engage with local communities in Hawai’i, Arizona, and Chile in a variety of outreach programs.

Visit our sites in Arizona, Hawai’i, and Chile for free! [visit link]

Jan Lotz (top left): International Gemini Observatory/NOIRLab/NSF/AURA./ Pollard
Nicole David (left bottom): NOIRLab/NSF/AURA/M. Paredes
Helix Nebula (back cover): NASA/ESA/NOIRLab/NSF/AURA/M. Meixner/T.A. Rector
Carina Nebula (cover): N. Smith/CTIO/NOIRLab/NSF/AURA
NOIRLab unifies all of the state-of-the-art nighttime optical observatories funded by the National Science Foundation.

NOIRLab’s mission is to enable incredible new discoveries about the Universe, and empower astronomers to tackle the most pressing questions in astrophysics today.

In all, NOIRLab facilitates science from 70 of the most diverse and innovative telescopes on Earth.

The newest facility is Vera C. Rubin Observatory which will survey the night sky in unprecedented detail with its 8.4-meter mirror. Rubin will survey the entire visible sky every few nights, and detect 10 million changes in the sky per night. It will answer questions about the nature of dark energy and dark matter, map the Milky Way and detect hazardous asteroids.

The international Gemini Observatory spans two continents with 8.1-meter telescopes at two of the world’s best observing sites, at Maunakea in Hawai‘i and on the mountain of Cerro Pachón in the Chilean Andes. We partner with Canada, Chile, Brazil, Argentina, and Korea in this ground-breaking observatory.

At Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona we host over 20 different telescopes, including the Nicholas U. Mayall 4-meter telescope, home to the Dark Energy Survey Instrument (DESI). DESI is the most powerful multi-object spectrograph in the world, capable of measuring the distance to more than 100,000 galaxies a night.

The largest telescope at the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory in Chile, the Víctor M. Blanco 4-meter Telescope, features the Dark Energy Camera (DECam), a high-performance, wide-field CCD imager built with Department of Energy funding and tested at DOE’s Fermilab.

The US Extremely Large Telescope Program is a joint endeavor of NSF’s NOIRLab and the organizations building the Thirty Meter Telescope and the Giant Magellan Telescope; it was ranked as the highest ground-based priority by the community for the next decade.

NOIRLab’s Community Science and Data Center is a sophisticated science platform providing high-level tools for discovery, exploration, and analysis of large public survey datasets.

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Clockwise from upper left:
Nicholas U. Mayall 4-meter Telescope: M. Chung/LBNL KPNO/NOIRLab/NSF/AURA
Gemini South: International Gemini Observatory/NOIRLab/NSF/AURA/Kwon o chul
Long Haul Network: Rubin Observatory/NSF/AURA
Vera C. Rubin Observatory: Rubin Observatory/NSF/AURA/B. Quint
Víctor M. Blanco 4-meter Telescope: CTIO/NOIRLab/NSF/AURA/D. Munizaga