

O-IR system Workshop, May 14, 2004  
Large Telescope/TSIP Working Group

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1. Upgrades to instruments, properly justified, eligible under TSIP 50% rule
2. Upgrades to facilities that improve productivity or add to scientific performance is eligible for 50% rate, but not intended for routine operations.
3. TSIP “short-form” brokering of telescope time at 100% (dollar-for-dollar)
4. “Pipeline” data reduction required as part of TSIP proposal. Supported (software salaries) at 50% rule or use NOAO capability for no charge, by arrangement. (Pipeline: removes instrument signatures, calibrated data, non-expert). In case of a “retroactive” pipeline for existing instrument, proposal to TSIP will be for NOAO to get the funds from TSIP or for the institution to do it under 50% rule. Pipeline => Archive.
5. Telescopes < 5m (already) can propose to TSIP. To level the playing field for depreciated telescopes, proposers can “recapitalize” by showing the capital cost of comparable facility today.

## Additional comments on TSIP:

1. Duplication of instruments not yet a problem (no funded instrument will be used 10-20% of the time), but we are looking forward to moving beyond IR spectrographs (OSIRIS, MMIRS, KIRMOS)
2. Proposal process handled by NOAO, working well, but need better descriptions of instrument capabilities for proposal process.
3. Reports of how things went on TSIP nights are spotty – improve!
4. Better observing manuals, data pipelines – see above
5. Most satisfied TSIP observers used Keck – good level of support. Some frustrations expressed by visiting observers to MMT, for example, since the telescope is still maturing. Important to track future satisfaction with MMT, Magellan, HET...

Lesson: Don't allocate telescope time too soon: is the telescope ready and are there sufficient instruments? – Readiness reviews!

6. A looming, large problem: Some of our large telescopes are supported at a marginal level, very spare compared to VLT. Will this continue, will we be competitive, and if not, where will the needed operating funds come from?