

# PIPT Quickstart Guide

## Nicola Loaring & Christian Hettlage

### 1 Introduction

This is a very brief introduction to using the PIPT. If you should have any questions please email [salthelp@sao.ac.za](mailto:salthelp@sao.ac.za)

### 2 Downloading and launching the PIPT

In order to use the latest version of the PIPT you must have Java 1.6 ('Java 6') installed. If this requirement is fulfilled, the installation is straightforward: Just download the PIPT for your operating system and store it locally in a directory of your choice. On Windows, move the downloaded file to a convenient location and launch the PIPT by double-clicking its icon. On Mac OS X, double-click the downloaded disk image to see its content. Move the file PIPT-1.9 to a convenient location and launch it by double-clicking its icon. On Linux (or any other operating system, for that matter) try to double-click on the icon of the file you've just downloaded, and see what happens. If this doesn't produce the desired effect, open a terminal and type in

```
java -jar your_jar_file
```

where `your_jar_file` denotes the downloaded file. When starting the PIPT for the first time, you will be greeted with a welcome message asking you to select a location for the cache. After that you will be informed that your cache requires an update, and you will be asked to log in so that the update can be made. Finally, the PIPT frame will appear and you can start creating and editing your proposals.

### 3 Editing your proposal

Upon opening the PIPT you will see a two panels. The left panel contains a drop down navigation tree of any existing proposals you may have. This panel will be blank if you have no existing proposals.

### **3.1 Creating a new proposal**

To create a new proposal click on the top left blue “P” button. The proposal will appear in the left hand navigation panel and a blank “General Proposal Information” page will appear in the right hand panel ready for editing.

### **3.2 Editing an existing proposal**

Simply click on the proposal you wish to edit in the left hand drop down navigation panel. The proposal will then “unpack” and you will be able to select the page you wish to edit by clicking on the appropriate line in the drop down navigation panel. The selected page will then appear in the right hand panel of the PIPT ready for editing.

### **3.3 Saving a proposal**

To save a proposal (frequent saves are recommended) click on the button third from the left with the floppy disk symbol.

### **3.4 General Proposal Information**

### **3.5 Investigators page**

Initially you will see an empty table. Follow the outline below to add investigators:-

- Right click on the table, then left click on the “add → new investigator” pop up.
- You will see a new page appear. Enter your username and password.
- The investigator page will appear. Enter your name and contact details.
- Select if you are PI or PC or both
- Select your partner and institute from drop down menu
- If your institute is not listed you will need to add one by selecting “add institute for partner other”

### 3.6 Targets page

Initially you will see an empty table. Follow the outline below to add targets:-

- Right click table, then left click on the “add → new target” pop up.
- For subsequent targets you may add a new target or a copy of a previously entered one.
- A new page will appear, fill in the target information in the boxes (red highlighted boxes are mandatory).
- You will need to enter the total observing time requested *including* overheads. Approximate overhead values can be found at <http://www.salt.ac.za/observing/proposing-for-salt-observations/overheads/>

You have the option to add “optional targets” to a separate table below the target table. Use this table in situations where you have lots of targets to choose from but only want some of them observed and do not mind which ones are picked.

If you have large numbers of targets, you can input a file containing the list of targets with a specific format which is described in [https://www.salt.ac.za/wm/pipt\\_manager/MultipleTargetDefinitionFormat.pdf](https://www.salt.ac.za/wm/pipt_manager/MultipleTargetDefinitionFormat.pdf)

### 3.7 Instrument configurations page

In the drop down navigation tree you will see an “InstrumentConfigurations” branch below your “target” branch.

- Left click on the branch, an empty table will appear.
- Right click to add either a SALTICAM, RSS or BVIT instrument configuration.
- Add a name and select the modes and other information you need to add from the drop down menus.

## 4 Submitting your proposal

To submit your proposal, first validate it to check for any errors. To do this click on the “tick” button (eighth from the right). If your proposal is valid, you may then submit it using the submit button. This button is the third from the right and has an arrow pointing upwards. You will need to enter your username and password again to do this. Should you encounter any problems, please email [salthelp@sao.ac.za](mailto:salthelp@sao.ac.za)