

AFRICA'S GIANT EYE ON THE SKY

Inspiring society by exploring the Universe

PARTNERS



SOUTHERN AFRICAN LARGE TELESCOPE





Republic of South Africa

South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF) is the majority shareholder in SALT, with approximately a one-half share. Over 200 PhD astronomers are currently employed by the NRF. The South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) is contracted to host and operate SALT. The SALT Astronomers, responsible for liaising with PIs and making the observations, as well as technical and support staff are placed here. The mechanical and electronics departments include large workshops and a dedicated CCD lab. SALTICAM and the RSS detector packages, as well as the fibre-instrument feed and various auto-guiders for the SALT instruments, were designed and built here.

The telescope is located on the Sutherland site of the Observatory, which is about 400 km from Cape Town and one of the darkest sites in the world. The maintenance and servicing of all instruments and telescope sub-systems are done here. One of SALT's strategic objectives is Human Capital Development: the SALT Collateral Benefits Programme (SCBP) was established during the construction of SALT and is mainly directed at schools but also includes outreach to the general public.

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| Board members | Vanessa McBride, SAAO/OAD Fulufhelo Nelwamondo, NRF Sharmila Goedhart, SAAO Itumeleng Monageng, SAAO/UC |
| Location | SAAO, Cape Town & SALT, Sutherland, RSA |
| Coordinates | SAAO: -33°56'05"S 18° 28'39"E SALT: -32°22'33"S 20°48'39"E |



Rutgers University, USA

Rutgers University is the largest institution of higher education in New Jersey. Originally chartered as Queen's College in 1766, it is the eighth-oldest college in the United States. More than 68 000 students are enrolled. Today the astronomy group includes 15 astronomers and 19 graduate students. Rutgers' astronomers participated in the design, development and fabrication of the RSS and led the effort to build the Fabry-Pérot Imaging Spectrophotometer subsystem, which is currently off-line.

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| Board member | Jack Hughes |
| Location | New Brunswick, New Jersey, U.S.A. |
| Coordinates | 40°30'6"N 74°26'53"W |

SALT Partners



Poland

Poland is a country with a long astronomical tradition, starting with Nicolaus Copernicus in the 15th century. Currently, about 250 astronomers are employed in six separate university institutes and two institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Center (CAMK) is the leading astronomical institute in Poland and the Polish coordinator for the project. It is located in Warsaw and was established in 1978.

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| Board member | Marek Sarna, CAMK |
| Location | Warsaw, Poland |
| Coordinates | 52°12'47"N 21°04'05"E |



Dartmouth College, USA

Founded in 1769, Dartmouth College (DC) is one of the leading liberal arts universities in the United States. About 6500 students are enrolled. Astronomy has a long history at Dartmouth, with the Shattuck Observatory (built in 1853) being the oldest scientific building on campus. In addition to SALT, DC has a share in the MDM observatory.

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| Board member | Brian Chaboyer (Chair) |
| Location | Hanover, New Hampshire, U.S.A. |
| Coordinates | 43°42'12"N 72°17'18"W |



University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

UW-Madison is the official state university of Wisconsin and has more than 43 000 students enrolled. The university contributed both to the construction as well as designing and building the Robert Stobie Spectrograph (RSS). Its Washburn Laboratory recently completed and delivered NIRWALS, the new near-infrared, integral-field spectrograph for SALT. The Washburn Labs team is working with SALT engineers and astronomers to commission the instrument for use in 2023.

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| Board member | Matthew Bershadsky |
| Location | Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A. |
| Coordinates | 43°04'30"N 89°25'02"W |



SALT Partners



Inter-University Centre for Astronomy & Astrophysics, India

The Inter-University Centre for Astronomy & Astrophysics (IUCAA) was established in 1988 by the University Grants Commission of India in Pune. The main objectives are to provide a centre of excellence within the university sector for teaching, research and development in astronomy and astrophysics, as well as to promote nucleation and growth of active groups in these areas in colleges and universities. IUCAA's contribution to SALT is the SIDE CAR Drive Electronics Controller (ISDEC) which is used as the control and data acquisition system for the H2RG detector in the new NIRWALS spectrograph.

Board member
Location
Coordinates

Raghunathan Srianand
Pune, Maharashtra, India
18°33'34"N 73°49'31"E



UK SALT Consortium, UK

The UK's SALT (UKSC) consortium consists of five astronomy groups, all of which have had a long-standing involvement with astronomers in South Africa. Furthermore, UKSC has successfully hosted a half-dozen SALT Stobie scholarships, enhancing the production of South African astronomy PhDs. UKSC astronomers play a leading role in the X-ray binaries component of the SALT Transients Large Programme. The five groups are located at the Armagh Observatory & Planetarium, Open University, and the Universities of Southampton, Keele and Central Lancashire.

Board member
Location
Coordinates

Phil Charles, University of Southampton
United Kingdom
UK: 54.07 N 3.00 W



The American Museum of Natural History, USA

The American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York City is one of the largest museums in the world. The Rose Center for Earth and Space, which is part of the museum, hosts, among others, the Department of Astrophysics. Besides astrophysical research it provides scientific support for outreach activities and exhibits in the museum. AMNH became a member of SALT in 2008 on the basis of a gift from the late Paul Newman. AMNH astrophysicist Michael Shara became Chairman of the SALT Board in 2012 and served in that position until 2021.

Board member
Location
Coordinates

Michael Shara
New York City, New York, U.S.A.
40°46'50"N 73°58'29"W

Introduction

The Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) is an international consortium consisting of a small number of partners that share the costs of the telescope, in return for corresponding fractions of the available observing time. Some of the partners have also made in-kind contributions, in the form of instruments and/or other intellectual property, to secure their membership.

Access

Each partner country or institution has their own time allocation committee and scientists outside the consortium who wish to use SALT are welcome to collaborate with those affiliated with partner institutions. SALT also has a limited amount of fully free Director's Discretionary Time available for, e.g., unexpected events, where SALT's rapid response time is particularly attractive.

Mission

SALT's mission is twofold: to provide a world-class large telescope research facility cost-effectively to astronomers in an international community, and to lead the advancement and development of optical astronomy on the African continent and inspire and educate new generations of scientists and engineers worldwide.

SALT Collateral Benefits Programme

The SALT Collateral Benefits Programme (SCBP) was established during the construction of SALT with the mandate of utilising the knowledge, technology and other available resources within the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) and similar institutions in order to facilitate education enhancement, science communication, socio-economic development and public engagement and thereby contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of all people within reach.



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