

Information Item: 1-yr Extension of Gemini Observatory Cooperative Agreement

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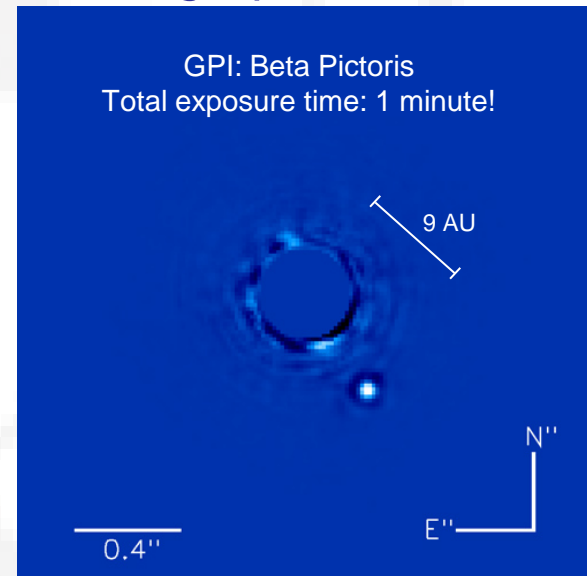
Program Officer, Gemini Observatory

NSB Meeting February 3-4, 2015



Most capable optical/infrared telescopes for U.S. community

- Gemini's twin 8-m diameter telescopes, located on Mauna Kea, Hawaii, and Cerro Pachón, Chile, represent the largest-aperture optical/IR facilities available to the general observing communities of the partner countries.
- Key capabilities:
 - High-resolution imaging with world's first multiconjugate adaptive optics system and a sophisticated coronagraphic instrument for imaging exoplanets
 - Multiobject optical spectroscopy
 - Infrared sensitivity
 - Multiple instruments + agile queue scheduling that enable unique target-of-opportunity science (e.g., LSST)



Gemini Observatory – an international partnership

- Partnership of U.S., Canada, Australia, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, with U.S. at ~65% share
- Gemini Board is policy, budget-setting entity for Observatory
- NSF is Executive Agency, oversees managing organization (required by NSF charter) on behalf of partnership
- Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) is current managing organization for Gemini
- Total annual Gemini contributions: ~\$27M Operations & Maintenance + ~\$4M instrument development (U.S. share ~\$18M, ~\$2-3M)



Management competition in progress

- Consistent with NSB policy, competition of Gemini management for calendar years 2017-2022* is underway
 - Letters of intent have been received
 - Site visits for potential proposers have been carried out
 - Proposals due February 27
 - Review panel has been assembled
 - Review scheduled for April 2015
- Requires 1-yr extension of current award to AURA
 - One-year proposal and full set of reviews are in hand
- Will return May 5-6, 2015 with action item for 1-yr award extension of \$30.851M for CY 2016

* Due to differing fiscal calendars of the Partners, Gemini operates on a calendar year (CY).



Gemini Competition Status

1-yr extension

- Jun 1, 2014: Request proposal
- Sep 30, 2014: Proposal received
- Nov 27, 2014: Reviews received
- Jan-Feb 2015: Write review analysis
- Feb 2015: **NSB** info item
- May 2015: **NSB** action item
- Jan 1, 2016: Award extended

- Completed
- In progress

Management competition

- Aug 7, 2014: Publish solicitation
- Aug-Sep 2014: Assemble intn'l review panel
- Oct 2014: Proposer site visits to HI and Chile
- Dec 2014: Set review venue & Gemini-N visit
- Feb 27, 2015: Proposals due
- Apr 21-24, 2015: Panel review – Hilo, HI
- May-Jul 2015: Write review analysis
- Aug 2015: **NSB** info item
- Nov 2015: Gemini Board approval
- Feb 2016: **NSB** action item
- 2016: Negotiate cooperative agreement, carry out transition (if necessary)
- Jan 1, 2017: New award commences

TODAY