



## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

### **for projects relating to Task Force 2: Astronomy for Children and Schools to be implemented in the 2013 Calendar Year**

#### **1. Introduction**

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) established the global Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) in order to fulfil the IAU's 10 year strategic plan ([http://iau.org/static/education/strategicplan\\_091001.pdf](http://iau.org/static/education/strategicplan_091001.pdf)). This plan aims to realise the global developmental benefits of astronomy.

The OAD is tasked with establishing and strategically coordinating Regional Nodes (ROADs) and Language Expertise Centres (LOADs) across the world as well as three Task Forces, namely (i) Astronomy for Universities and Research, (ii) Astronomy for Children and Schools, and (iii) Astronomy for the Public. The bulk of the implementation of projects is to be carried out by volunteers, coordinated by the Task Forces with the support of the OAD. The OAD will source the necessary funding beyond available IAU funds.

Task Force 2 (Children and Schools) was established in May 2012 and is now calling for projects relevant to this area of astronomy for development. More information about the OAD and its activities can be found at [www.astro4dev.org](http://www.astro4dev.org).

#### **2. Call for Proposals**

The IAU has earmarked a minimum of 80 000 EUR to support projects and activities related to all three Task Forces. Task Force 2, through the OAD, now issues this open call for proposals to access this funding. Proposals which are not funded through this process but which are ranked by the Task Force to be significantly important will go onto a "wish list" for which the OAD will continue fundraising efforts.

In general proposals should seek to align with the IAU's 10 year strategic plan, with specific focus on Astronomy for Children and Schools. Some examples of such activities (as documented during the OAD Stakeholder Workshop in December 2011):

- i. Teacher Training and development
- ii. Resource development and vetting
- iii. Produce guidelines and support for using robotic telescopes for school projects
- iv. Explore distance learning options applicable to school level education
- v. Involve education research community to inform all activities and determine evaluation guidelines and possible accreditation options
- vi. Establish reference group for curriculum evaluation
- vii. Support existing networks for education
- viii. Explore mobile education options

- ix. Conduct study on the value of astronomy training
- x. Any other relevant projects not mentioned here

All proposals should be submitted via the Application Form which can be downloaded from the OAD website (<http://www.astro4dev.org/index.php/cfp/tf2cfp>)

### **3. Funding Conditions**

- i. Proposals for 2013 are invited in 3 categories:
  - a. Small projects up to a maximum of 1000 Euro per proposal.
  - b. Medium projects up to a maximum of 5000 Euro per proposal.
  - c. Large projects up to a maximum of 10000 Euro.
- ii. Only completed application forms will be considered.
- iii. The term of a successful proposal is a maximum of 12 months starting on 1st January 2013.

### **4. Selection Criteria**

The following criteria will be considered in the selection of projects.

- i. Alignment with the goals of IAU's 10 year strategic plan:
  - a. Raising the level of astronomy development in as many countries as possible, so as to maximize the size of population reached
  - b. Working to include aspects of astronomy as aids to the primary and secondary education of as many children as possible.
- ii. Quality and relevance of content.
- iii. Clear timeline indicators.
- iv. Cost effectiveness of the project including a detailed budget.
- v. Potential to raise additional funds and/or leverage long term support from sources other than the IAU.
- vi. Range of stakeholder participation (e.g. partnerships with schools / universities / industry / government)
- vii. Degree of impact of the project with potential for sustainability.
- viii. Description of how the effectiveness of project will be evaluated
- ix. Evidence of due diligence in incorporating relevant results / lessons / research from similar/related projects

### **5. Proposal Evaluation**

The proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by the members of the Task Force and recommendations will be submitted to the IAU Development Oversight Committee. Allocations will be made by the IAU based on the TF recommendations.

### **6. Proposal Requirements**

All proposals must be submitted in completed application forms and sent by email to [proposals@astro4dev.org](mailto:proposals@astro4dev.org). It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the proposal has been received in order by the OAD. All proposals received will be acknowledged by email.

### **7. Closing Date**

The deadline for submitting proposals is **23:59 UTC on Sunday, 30th September 2012**. All applicants will receive feedback during December 2012 for projects to be implemented in the 2013 calendar year.

## **8. Enquiries:**

Please direct enquiries to Kevin Govender (Director OAD), preferably by email at [kg@astro4dev.org](mailto:kg@astro4dev.org). Alternative contact information:

Telephone: +27 (0) 21 460 6297; Fax: +27 (0) 21 447 3639; Mobile: +27 (0) 82 487 8466;  
Website: [www.astro4dev.org](http://www.astro4dev.org); Skype: kevindran; Twitter: @govender; Postal address: P.O. Box 9, Observatory, 7935, South Africa; Physical address: SAAO, Observatory Road, Observatory, 7925, South Africa.