



**International Astronomical Union**  
**Union Astronomique Internationale**  
**Office of Astronomy for Development**

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**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

for projects relating to  
**Task Force 3: Astronomy for the Public**  
to be implemented in the 2013 Calendar Year

**1. Introduction**

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) established the global Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD). The purpose of the OAD is to use astronomy and its inspirational aspects to make the world a better place. This vision is described in the IAU 10-year Strategic Plan ([http://iau.org/static/education/strategicplan\\_091001.pdf](http://iau.org/static/education/strategicplan_091001.pdf)), which aims to realise the global developmental benefits of astronomy. More information about the OAD and its activities can be found at [www.astro4dev.org](http://www.astro4dev.org)

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, who will provide funding.

Task Force 3 (Astronomy for the Public) was established in May 2012 and is now calling for projects relevant to this area of astronomy for development.

**2. Call for Proposals**

The IAU has earmarked a minimum of €80 000 to support projects and activities related to all three Task Forces. Task Force 3 now issues an 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 the Public. Some examples of such activities are given in the Appendix.

All proposals should be submitted via the Application Form which can be downloaded from the OAD website (<http://www.astro4dev.org/index.php/cfp/tf3cfp>). Projects will be funded for one calendar year but can be planned for longer. The funding cycle is annual and proposers can reapply.

### **3. Funding Conditions**

- i. We invite proposals for projects with a budget of around 1000 – 5000 EUR (some flexibility is allowed)
- ii. Only completed application forms will be considered
- iii. Proposals judged worthwhile that cannot be funded immediately are kept on a ‘wish list’, for which the OAD will continue fundraising efforts.

### **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
- ii. Quality and relevance of content.
- iii. Innovativeness and creativity of approach.
- iv. Clear timeline indicators.
- v. Cost effectiveness of the project including a detailed budget.
- vi. Potential to raise additional funds and/or leverage long term support from sources other than the IAU.
- vii. Range of stakeholder participation (e.g. partnerships with universities/industry/government)
- viii. Degree of impact of the project with potential for sustainability.

### **5. Proposal Evaluation**

The proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by the Task Force Management Team (listed here: <http://www.astro4dev.org/index.php/taskforces>) and recommendations submitted to the IAU Development Oversight Committee. Allocations will be made based on the TF Management Team 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:  
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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.

## **Appendix: Some examples of projects**

- i. Journalist/blogger/communicator and amateur training
- ii. Citizen science projects
- iii. Develop/Identify models for good outreach activities (adapt successful projects)
- iv. Vetting of amateur astronomers
- v. Guidelines on using Traditional/Cultural astronomy for outreach and addressing false beliefs such as the Mayan “end of the world” misconception
- vi. Establish evolving list of existing celebrations
- vii. Astro-tourism activities
- viii. Astrophotography
- ix. Outreach awards
- x. Mobile planetaria
- xi. Conduct study (with partners) on economic impact of astronomy
- xii. Establish evaluation guidelines e.g. build on IYA2009; FETTU experiences
- xiii. Volunteer peer-review of public-level resources (Writers of popular astronomy resources can volunteer to submit their resources for peer review and get an IAU seal of approval. Editorial board to be set up by TF3)
- xiv. Creation of images and multimedia resources for OAD activities (Use our volunteers’ skills to reinforce IAU OAD resources when needed)
- xv. Stargazing events and telescope making workshops and similar activities - astronomy festivals.
- xvi. Any other relevant project which may not be mentioned here