Announcement of Opportunity
Real Time Controller
AURA, INC - Gemini Observatory

The Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc. (AURA), on behalf of the Gemini Observatory, is soliciting Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Real Time Controller (RTC) in support of the Gemini North Adaptive Optics facility (GNAO), a multi-conjugate adaptive optics system.

The selected firm(s) will provide the following services: design, analysis, procurement, fabrication, acceptance testing, packaging, transportation, delivery, and warranty of the RTC as described in GNAO-RTC-RFP-002_RevA, Specifications & Requirements document.

Background:

The multi-faceted Gemini in the Era of Multi - Messenger Astronomy GEMMA program is designed to upgrade Gemini’s instrumentation and operations in order to deliver essential capabilities for forefront astronomical research in the areas of high spatial resolution and rapid-response astronomy.

The major hardware deliverable to be provided by GEMMA will be a state-of-the-art multi-conjugate adaptive optics (MCAO) facility, a key technology for the era of extremely large telescopes (ELT) to be deployed at Gemini North; referred to as GNAO. As part of the GNAO project, Gemini will deliver an advanced, flexible Real Time Controller (RTC) component for use with the AO system. The RTC is the brains behind the complex MCAO correction.

Funding for the construction of the RTC is being provided by the National Science Foundation.

AURA is seeking proposals from qualified firms who are interested in responding to the above effort. All documentation relating to this solicitation will be available for download at the AURA Central Administrative Services website.

Parties not following the “Instructions to Proposers” or submitting incomplete packages may have their proposals summarily rejected.