

Announcement of Opportunity

Request for Proposal: Gemini North Adaptive Optics Bench

The Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc. (AURA), on behalf of the Gemini Observatory, is soliciting competitive proposals to design and build the Adaptive Optics Bench (AOB) of the Gemini North Adaptive Optics facility (GNAO), a multi-conjugate adaptive optics system currently under development.

The Gemini Observatory consists of two 8-m telescopes, respectively located on Maunakea, in Hawaii, USA, and Cerro Pachón, in Chile. AURA manages the Gemini Observatory under a Cooperative Support Agreement (CSA) with the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The GNAO facility receives funding from the NSF under the Gemini in the Era of Multi-Messenger Astronomy (GEMMA) program. The GEMMA program has multiple goals: (i) upgrade the Gemini North Adaptive Optics workhorse facility instrument, (ii) provide new rapid-response capabilities for time-domain astronomy and (iii) expand public outreach.

AURA is seeking proposals from qualified organizations which are interested in bidding on the design, implementation, integration, procurement, acceptance testing, packaging, transportation, delivery and warranty of the GNAO Adaptive Optics Bench. The bidding process is open to all organizations, regardless of national origin.

The GEMMA program is under extremely strict constraints regarding budget and schedule. Gemini Observatory expects the AOB development to follow a low-risk design. The bidder's capability to demonstrate that they can deliver the AOB by June 2024 will be a major consideration in the selection process.

The complete Request for Proposal (RfP) documentation related to this solicitation will be available for download on the [AURA Central Administrative Services](#) website the first week of January 2020. At this time, the existing conceptual design documents (Operational Concept Document, Science Case Document, Conceptual Design Document, and simulation reports) released for the GNAO Conceptual Design Review, will also be made available to the bidders.

A bidder's conference will be held by AURA during the second half of January 2020, to provide the bidders with the opportunity to ask questions regarding the RfP documentation set. Attendance to this conference is not required but strongly encouraged.

Gemini expects the proposal due date to be February 28th, 2020.