

# Applying for time at the ESO / VLT



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# Bi-annual call-for-proposal

End of September 2017 -> observation April/Sept. 2018

End of March 2018 -> observation Oct. 2018/March 2019



The screenshot shows the ESO website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ESO logo and the text 'Southern Observatory' on the left, and 'ESO — Reaching New Heights in Astronomy' on the right. Below this is a horizontal menu with 'Public', 'Science', 'User Portal', 'Contact', and 'Site Map'. A search bar is located on the right side of the menu. The main content area is titled 'Applying for Observing Time' and contains the following text:

Telescope time for ESO telescopes at the La Silla Paranal Observatory is allocated twice a year in periods of 6 months. Allocation periods run from 1 October through 31 March, and from 1 April through 30 September. Applications for observing time on ESO telescopes may only be submitted electronically, and only using the **ESOFORM** proposal submission package obtained from this Web page.

The Call for Proposals describes the conditions under which observing time is offered on the ESO telescopes on the La Silla, Paranal, and Chajnantor (APEX) sites of the Observatory. The document is available in electronic form via this Web page.

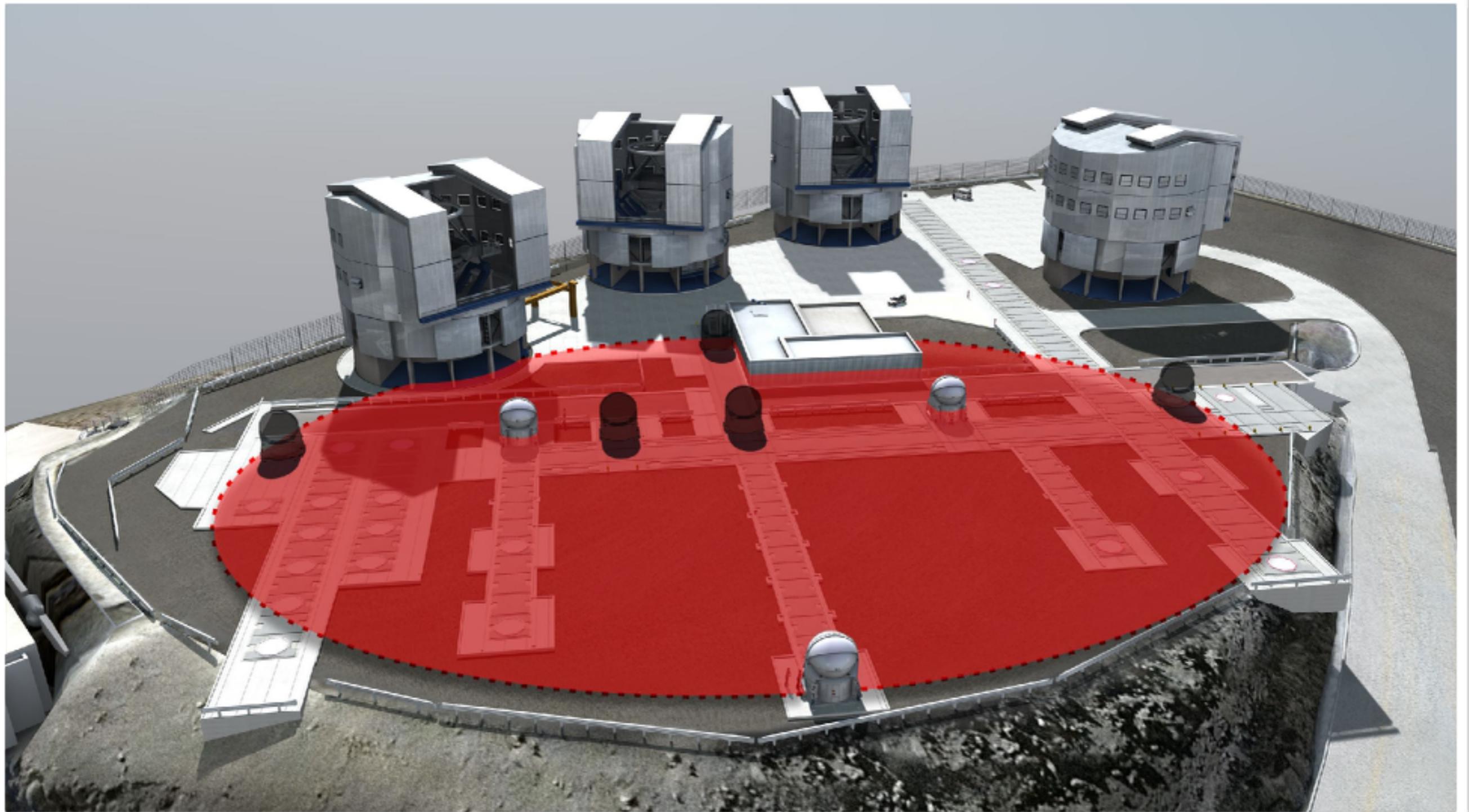
**The deadline for Period 101 (1 April - 30 September 2018) is:**

**28 September, 2017**  
(12:00 noon, Central European Summer Time)

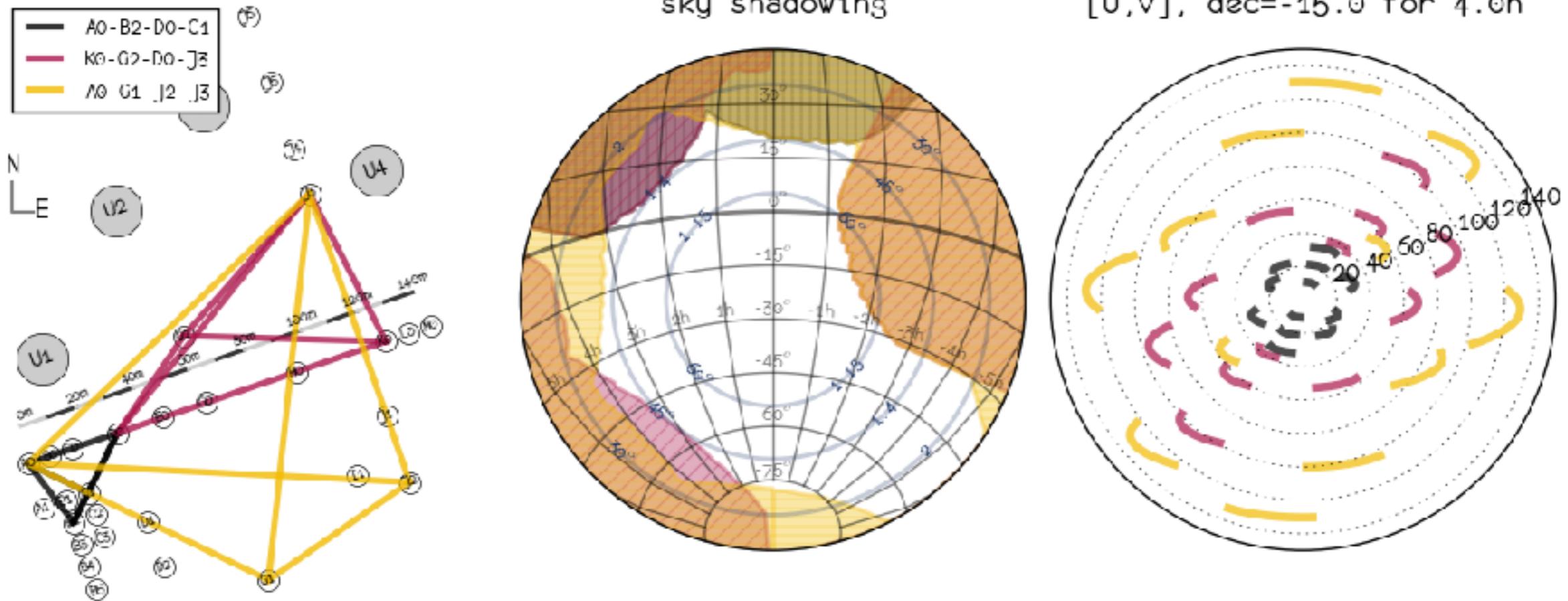
Applications for observation time for the **ESO Telescopes** have to be prepared using the **ESOFORM package**, and **uploaded** via the web. More details are given below. In order to submit proposals for ESO telescopes the ESOFORM package for cycle **101A** should be downloaded.

<https://www.eso.org/sci/facilities/paranal/cfp/cfp101.html>

# The VLT-I facility



# VLT configuration



ATs = 4 relocatable 1.8m telescopes

UTs = 4 fixed 8m telescopes (add + 2mag)

# Instruments

- AMBER

- 3T, H+K
- $H < 6.5\text{mag}$  @  $R=35$
- $H < 5.0\text{mag}$  @  $R=10000$

H-band spectroscopy

- GRAVITY

- 4T, K
- $K < 7\text{mag}$  @  $R=5000$
- Dual-beam for much fainter stars within 5"

Spectroscopy of faint stars, spectro-imaging...

- PIONIER

- 4T, H
- $H < 7.5\text{mag}$  @  $R=30$
- High cadence

Large sample of binaries, diameters...

Disclaimer: These numbers are not complete. Exact performances depends on modes, weather... if you have targets at the limit, it is worth having a look at the instrument pages.

<http://www.eso.org/sci/facilities/paranal/instruments.html>

# ESO proposal flow

- Phase 1: Call-for-proposal
- Phase 2: Prepare and submit Observing Blocks, typically each is ~1h observation, CAL-SCI-CAL  
=> user support
- VLTI observations mostly is service, quality assessment by ESO until completion. Standard calibration provided. Priority of OB based on proposal ranking and weather.  
=> PI contacted if questions, but not in real-time.
- After each OB completion: night-report and data delivered within a day, email alert.
- Public pipeline offered for all instrument, works well with all offered modes and standard calibration (remember: data quality has been checked).  
=> user support

# Non-member state proposal

**If at least 2/3 of the applicants are not affiliated to ESO member institutes**, the following apply:

- The proposal has to be scientifically outstanding.
- The required instrumentation is not available at any other observatory accessible to the applicants.
- If similar proposals of ESO members states are rated equally, preference will be given to those.
- ESO will only grant financial support to astronomers affiliated to ESO member institutes.

# Personal advices

- Pressure typically  $\sim 2$ , so worth the try.
- Request UTs if needed (typically +2mag).
- Put some European colleagues at the end, to be “ESO member proposal”.
- Filling a proposal is rather easy. Most important is a strong astro context, and a clear goal.
- You probably build a more efficient VLT proposal if you discuss early with someone who knows VLT.
- Complementary observations (X-shooter vis-nIR spectra, AO-imaging) within a single proposal.

# Are you sure you need to?

- ESO General Archive delivers the requested SCI and all necessary calibrations within a click.

[http://archive.eso.org/eso/eso\\_archive\\_main.html](http://archive.eso.org/eso/eso_archive_main.html)

Search [Reset] Output preferences: html table [v] Return max 200 rows. All Fields [v] Syntax Help

**Target, Program, and Scheduling Information**

Target Name [v] [ ] Resolved by SIMBAD [v] Night [v] [ ] (YYYY MM(M) DD)  
RA [ ] DEC [ ] J2000  
Search Box [ ] Input [ ] RA(h) DEC(deg) [v]  
Output [v] Sexagesimal (h, deg) [v]  
List of Targets Choose File no file selected

Otherwise give a query range using the following start/end dates:  
Start [ ] 12 hrs [UT] [v] End [ ] 12 hrs [UT] [v]  
Program ID [v] [ ] Program Type [v] Any [v]  
PI CoI [ ] SV [v] Any [v]  
Title [ ]

**Observing Information**

Imaging ALL NONE [v] Spectroscopy ALL NONE [v] Interferometry ALL NONE [v] Other ALL NONE [v]  
EFOSC2/LaSilla [v] CES/LaSilla [v] AMBER/VLT [v] BOL/APEX [v]  
EMM/LaSilla [v] CRRES/VLT [v] GRAVITY/VLT [v] HET/APEX [v]  
FORS1/VLT [v] EFOSC2/LaSilla [v] MIDI/VLT [v] LGSF/VLT [v]  
FORS2/VLT [v] EMM/LaSilla [v] PIONIER/VLT [v] MAD/VLT [v]  
HAWK1/VLT [v] FEROS/LaSilla [v] VINCI/VLT [v] MASCOT/Paranal [v]

**Data Product Info**

Type [v] Any [v]  
User defined input: [ ]  
Mode [v] Any [v]  
User defined input: [ ]

- JMMC archives all PIONIER observations in science-ready OIFITS

<http://oidb.jmmc.fr>

JMMC - OIBD - Home Search Submit new data Help - Sign in

**Filters**

Position: Name or J2000 coordinates Radius: 2 arcmin [v]  
Date of observation: after YYYY-MM-DD [v] before YYYY-MM-DD [v]  
Instrument: PIONIER [v] Wavelength range: any value [v]  
Collector: Any Collection [v] DataPI name: Any DataPI [v]  
Data reduction level: [v] [v] [v] [v] Availability: Public [v] Restricted [v] All [v]

25 rows max. per page, sorted by Instrument [v] descending [v] Search [v] Reset [v]

**Results**

Meta-data will try to follow VO40i proposal and Ivoa ObsCore document (get metadata description in the associated doc)  
6695 observations from 6695 oifits files (452 private)

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Results for SELECT ALL \* FROM oibd AS t WHERE ( t.instrument\_name LIKE 'PIONIER' ) ( Edit query )

target_name	access_url	t_min	instrument_name	wlen_min	wlen_max	nb_channels	datapil
ACHERNAR	PIONI.2015-12-16T01:31:12.507_oidataCalibrated.fits	2015-12-16T01:29:16	PIONIER	1.51857160	1.76226510	6	KIRVELLA [v]
ACHERNAR	PIONI.2015-12-16T01:51:52.933_oidataCalibrated.fits	2015-12-16T01:55:12	PIONIER	1.51857160	1.76226510	6	KIRVELLA [v]
HIP12272	PIONI.2015-12-16T02:45:47.724_oidataCalibrated.fits	2015-12-16T02:42:43	PIONIER	1.51857160	1.76226510	6	HALBWACHS [v]