

Scientific Authorities Sign the TMT Master Agreement

07.25.2013

The Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project announces today that all of the scientific authorities of the TMT partners have signed a Master Agreement. The Master Agreement document establishes a formal agreement amongst the international parties defining the project goals, establishing a governance structure and defining member party rights, obligations and benefits.

TMT is a unique and vibrant collaboration among universities in the United States with institutions in the nations of Canada, China, India and Japan, and with major funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Uniting these various parties under a Master Agreement stands as a significant accomplishment for TMT as a scientific endeavor with global reach.

"The signing of this Master Agreement marks a major milestone in the official commitment to and formalization of this global collaboration, ensuring that the TMT project is on schedule and progressing smoothly," said Henry Yang, Chair of the TMT Collaborative Board. "We have been working towards this moment for a long time and this is a special day for astronomy's next-generation observatory."

The Master Agreement brings together the TMT partners for the purpose of developing, designing, financing, constructing, commissioning, operating and decommissioning a next-generation, thirty meter-class astronomical observatory.

"We are pleased with this vote of confidence from the scientific authorities," said Edward Stone, Vice Chair of the TMT Board. "Their signing of this Master Agreement is a key endorsement of TMT's scientific merits as well as the project's overall implementation plan."

Looking ahead, the next step will be for the financial authorities of the partners to similarly sign the document and finalize the funding plan.

"With the scientific authorities now all on board, we welcome and look forward to the critical support of the remaining financial authorities in advancing the TMT project," said Yang.

2013 has been a busy and successful year for TMT, and the signing of the Master Agreement is a major step forward in the creation of a revolutionary astronomical facility. Construction of TMT is planned to begin in April 2014 and TMT is scheduled to begin scientific operations in 2022 on Mauna Kea, Hawaii.

Signatories of the Master Agreement:

The signatories of the Master Agreement are: Donald E. Brooks, Chair of the Association of Canadian Universities for Research in Astronomy (ACURA) Institutional Council; Jean-Lou Chameau, President of the California Institute of Technology; Masahiko Hayashi, Director General of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ); Dr. P. Sreekumar,

Director of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics; Jun Yan, Director General of the National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC) and Mark Yudof, President of the University of California.

Statements from TMT Partners:

"ACURA is pleased to be a partner in signing the Master Agreement as Scientific Authority, and is currently engaged with the National Research Council to discuss moving the project forward for funding in Canada. TMT will be a vital resource for research in Canadian universities. It will deepen our knowledge of many of the major issues in astronomy & astrophysics in ways that would not be possible without such a new generation telescope," said Ernie Seaquist, Executive Director of the Association of Canadian Universities for Research in Astronomy (ACURA).

"China is excited to be an active partner of such a world-leading facility, which represents a quantum leap for our community. With yet another major step taken, we look forward to many decades of solving the mysteries of the cosmos from Mauna Kea," said Jun Yan, Director General of the National Astronomical Observatories of China.

"We are delighted to start contribution to make this scientific enterprise a reality. We believe TMT and Subaru will be a good match to explore many key riddles of the Universe," said Prof. Masahiko Hayashi, the Director General of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan.

"TMT-India is extremely happy to participate in the joint signing of the TMT Master Agreement. It is an important milestone in our global endeavor to raise astronomical observations to a new level with the promise of exciting science. With a large number of young students and researchers in our growing academic program, the Indian astronomical community sees the complete realization of the TMT project as an important stimulus to astrophysics research programs in India. We look forward to jointly addressing the next milestone in this program," said Dr. P. Sreekumar, Director, Indian Institute of Astrophysics.

About the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation:

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation believes in bold ideas that create enduring impact in the areas of science, environmental conservation and patient care. Intel co-founder Gordon and his wife Betty established the foundation to create positive change around the world and at home in the San Francisco Bay Area. Science looks for opportunities to transform—or even create—entire fields by investing in early-stage research, emerging fields and top research scientists. Environmental conservation efforts promote sustainability, protect critical ecological systems and align conservation needs with human development. Patient care focuses on eliminating preventable harms and unnecessary healthcare costs through meaningful engagement of patients and their families in a supportive, redesigned healthcare system. Visit us at [Moore.org](https://www.moore.org) or follow @MooreScientific.

About TMT:

TMT is the next-generation astronomical observatory that is scheduled to begin scientific operations in 2022 on Mauna Kea, Hawaii. TMT is a collaboration of the California Institute of Technology, University of California, the Association of Canadian Universities for

Research in Astronomy, the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, a consortium of Chinese institutions led by the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and institutions in India supported by the Department of Science and Technology of India. Major funding has been provided by the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation. For more information, visit tmt.org , www.facebook.com/TMTHawaii or follow @TMTHawaii.

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TMT Master Agreement - NAOJ and NAOC signing

The TMT Master Agreement was completed today at a meeting of the TMT Collaborative Board. All representatives of the TMT partner scientific authorities have signed the document.

Masahiko Hayashi, Director General of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) - left - and Jun Yan, Director General of the National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC) - right - sign the document.



TMT Master Agreement - NAOC signing

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Jun Yan, Director General of the National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC) signs the document, surrounded by representatives from the scientific authorities of the TMT partners.

From L to R: Ernie Seaquist, Executive Director of the Association of Canadian Universities for Research in Astronomy (ACURA); Eswar Reddy, TMT Board Member from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics; Edward Stone, TMT Board Vice Chair and the Morrisroe Professor of Physics at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech); Masahiko Hayashi, Director General of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ); Jun Yan, Director General of the National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC); Henry Yang, TMT Board Chair and Chancellor of the University of California Santa Barbara.



TMT Master Agreement - NAOJ signing

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Masahiko Hayashi, Director General of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) signs the document, surrounded by representatives from the scientific authorities of the TMT partners.

From L to R: Ernie Seaquist, Executive Director of the Association of Canadian Universities for Research in Astronomy (ACURA); Eswar Reddy, TMT Board Member from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics; Edward Stone, TMT Board Vice Chair and the Morrisroe Professor of Physics at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech); Masahiko Hayashi, Director General of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ); Jun Yan, Director General of the National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC); Henry Yang, TMT Board Chair and Chancellor of the University of California Santa Barbara.



TMT Master Agreement - partner representatives

The TMT Master Agreement was completed today at a meeting of the TMT Collaborative Board in Waikoloa, Hawaii. All representatives of the TMT partner scientific authorities have signed the document.

From L to R: Ernie Seaquist, Executive Director of the Association of Canadian Universities for Research in Astronomy (ACURA); Eswar Reddy, TMT Board Member from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics; Edward Stone, TMT Board Vice Chair and the Morrisroe Professor of Physics at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech); Masahiko Hayashi, Director General of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ); Jun Yan, Director General of the National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC); Henry Yang, TMT Board Chair and Chancellor of the University of California Santa Barbara.



TMT Collaborative Board and Guests - July 25-26, 2013, Waikoloa, Hawaii

Members and guests of the TMT Collaborative Board at the July 25-26, 2013 meeting at Waikoloa, Hawaii.

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