

Facility TNA Call - AHEAD 2015-2019

AHEAD 2015-2019

Call for Proposals to be supported via the AHEAD Trans-National Access programme to ground and test facilities.

From 20-th November 2017 we offer as a new opportunity to guest teams to propose only a site or training visit independent on whether it will be followed on by a test campaign. For example, the purpose could be to explore the suitability of the facility for their studies, or to receive adequate training prior to the execution of a campaign. Proposal can be submitted any time, but not later than 30 June 2018.

The EU-funded AHEAD project releases, starting May 16 2016, a new call to offer **free-of-cost** access to top-level test equipments and/or calibration facilities. The offer is especially targeted to scientific and industrial teams working on hardware development in fields such as exploration of the cosmos, planetology, solar and plasma physics and particle physics. As part of one of the AHEAD Trans-National Access activities we are offering access time to 13 different installations distributed across Europe. Furthermore, **AHEAD will fully reimburse travel expenses and daily allowance for a team of up to 3 persons.** The team composition will be such that at least 2 persons must work in a country different from the one hosting the facility. The access from teams working in countries other than EU or associated countries is possible with some additional limitation, as summarized below.

The call is open from 16 May 2016 until 30 June 2018. During this period proposals can be submitted at any time. Proposals will be evaluated typically within one month from their submission by a purposed AHEAD selection Committee of experts. In order to improve the flexibility of the program it will be possible to submit proposal requiring access for any of the coming semesters (but not later than AHEAD closure date: February 28th 2019). In case of proposal asking for access deferred by more than 2 semesters facility availability will be verified in due time. **In order to ease the submission of a winning proposal the AHEAD TNA facility host teams have agreed to furnish to the interested guest teams adequate technical support during the proposal preparation phase.** The facility contact persons are provided in the table at the bottom.

The list of all relevant dates, and the “standard” semester of visits is provided below. The dates listed below are still provisional and some adjustments may be made during the AHEAD implementation phase. However given the foreseen schedule of the AHEAD project, **all the TNA activities have to be concluded by the end of February 2019.**

Call	Opening date	Semester Round Closing Date	Decision Date	Nominal Reference Semester (a)
First	December 10th 2015	January 15th 2016	End of February 2016	March 1st 2016 - August 31st 2016
Continuous	May 16-th 2016	June 30-th 2016	End of July 2016	September 1st 2016 - February 28th 2017
Continuous NA		December 31st 2016	Within 1 month from submission	March 1st 2017 - August 31st 2017
Continuous NA		June 30th 2017	Within 1 month from submission	September 1st 2017 - February 28th 2018
Continuous NA		December 31st 2017	Within 1 month from submission	March 1st 2018 - August 31st 2018
Continuous NA		June 30th 2018	Within 1 month from submission	September 1st 2018 - February 28th 2019

(a) Proposal can request for access in any coming semester.

Proposals must meet certain EU and AHEAD rules for formal eligibility concerning team membership: (a) applications by experimental teams from European and non-European countries are eligible; the access for user

groups with a majority of users not working in a EU or associated country being limited to 20% of the total amount of units of access provided under this call; (b) the user group leader and the majority of the users must work in a country other than the country(ies) where the installation is located. (c) only user groups that are allowed to disseminate the results may benefit from the access, unless the users are working for SMEs. The planned number of days available at each facility as part of the AHEAD TNA scheme is given in the table below. It may be possible for the AHEAD Committee to move a given project to another facility to match scientific rating and overall demand, given the technical requirements of the project compared with the available infrastructure capabilities. The proponents are kindly asked to indicate in the technical case if their project can be done at other facilities, and give a list of any alternate choices. In this case, they should write down any technical issues, such as changes in the time request which would result.

Summary of AHEAD trans-national access provision to ground test and laboratory facilities

Access provider short name	Short name of infrastructure	Installation Nr	Short name	Installation Country code	Place	Unit of access	Quantity of access to be provided(days)*	Estimated number of users*	Estimated number of user projects*
INAF	IDCTF	1	XACT	IT	OA Palermo	day	8	2	1
INAF		2	TVLAB	IT	IAPS Rome	day	8	2	1
INAF		3	IPC	IT	IAPS Rome	day	5	2	1
INAF		4	MEX	IT	IAPS Rome	day	8	2	1
UNIFE	LARIX	1	LARIX-A	IT	Scientific-Technological Pole of Univ. of Ferrara	day	16	4	2
UNIFE		2	LARIX-T	IT	Scientific-Technological Pole of Univ. of Ferrara	day	8	2	1
ULEIC	ULSRC	1	LLBFT	UK	Space Research Centre, Univ. Leicester	day	8	2	1
ULEIC		2	VBC	UK	Space Research Centre, Univ. Leicester	day	10	2	1
CNRS/LAM	SPATIAL	1	Shaker device	FR	Marseille	day	5	2	1
CSL	CSL	1	FOCAL 2	BE	Liège	day	8	4	2
CSL		2	Shaker 200 kN	BE	Liège	day	2	4	2
UNIPG	STL	1	SERMS	IT	Scientific-Didactic Pole Terni	day	16		
UNIPG		2	CEM	IT	Scientific-Didactic Pole Terni	day	16		

Notes: * These are the total access available over the entire lifetime of the AHEAD project.

You can see details of the technical capabilities of the offered ground test and calibration facilities by going to the “Infrastructures” section web page.

Requests for multiple facilities for the same scientific project must be included in a single proposal form. Request for projects with different scientific objectives should be made on separate proposal forms.

We do not foresee to implement “long term” proposals since the selection panel does not know for certain if sufficient days on your facility of choice will be available in the future semesters. However, proposers may make a note in the text about their interest to re-apply in the future calls with a similar or a follow-on project.

Since the AHEAD Trans-National Access programme is limited by the EC funds available, it is possible that not all of these access days will be allocated at every facility; adjustments, if required, will be considered in due course.

Projects must be scientifically competitive and will be ranked based on scientific merit and technical feasibility by an AHEAD- appointed international selection committee of 5 members, the majority of which are independent experts. **Depending on proposal complexity technical feasibility may be based on a technical report prepared by experts running the facility and made available in due time to the selection committee.** AHEAD will attempt to schedule time allocated by this committee subject to practical constraints on facility availability. Moreover, it is foreseen to assign higher priority to: (a) teams who are working in countries where no

equivalent research infrastructure exist; (b) teams who have not previously used the installation and (c) users who are outside of the AHEAD network. For more information, please contact the Project Scientist (lorenzo.natalucci at iaps.inaf.it).

The AHEAD TNA will allow to support the following actions activities (and related costs):

1. Successful proposers will receive travel funds to cover the travel and subsistence expenses of the team, **consisting of a maximum of 3 (three) guest users. According to EU rules this allows one of the three members to be of the same nationality of the country hosting the facility.** The length of the visits will depend on the required facility and planned test; possible durations range between 3 and 10 working days. Please also see the section on Trans-National Access on our Rules for Travel page;
2. In the case of a complex facility and/or complex test run, we will support short-term preparatory visits of (maximum) 2 people between facility team and selected external teams. Such a request should be duly justified as part of the submitted proposal. Since AHEAD has limited resources to cover those expenses a valid justification must be provided.
3. **Starting from 20-th November 2017, it will be possible to guest teams to propose only a site or training visit independent on whether it will be followed on by a test campaign. For example, the purpose could be to explore the suitability of the facility for their studies, or to receive adequate training prior to the execution of a campaign.**

If mechanical or electrical interfaces of substantial complexity will be required for performing the planned test, the associated costs should be covered by the guest teams and will not be covered by the hosting infrastructures nor by the AHEAD funds. The guest teams will probably also be required to provide these interfaces, together with the necessary documentation (as requested by the host site) defining and certifying the interface items.

For downstream processing by the individual facility, successful proposers may be required to submit additional practical/technical information as for facility local expert requests. **Finally, in order to be able to fulfill EU rules on TNA activity reporting, each of the selected teams must prepare a short (max 1-2 page) final summary report of its activity at the given facility and to give a signed copy to the local facility management.**

Publications resulting from work carried out under this Trans-national Access activity must acknowledge the support of the European Community. Each of the selected teams is asked to provide timely the following information to the contact person of the visited facility and to the TNA coordinator (sciorti at astropa.inaf.it): (a) a list of their publications that have appeared in journals (or conference proceedings) and are resulting from work carried out under this Trans-national Access activity. For each publication we kindly ask to indicate: the acronyms of the user-projects that have led to the publication itself, the authors, the title, the year of publication, the type of publication (Article in journal, Publication in conference proceeding/workshop/on-line repository, Book/Monograph, Chapters in book, Thesis/dissertation, etc.), whether it has been peer-reviewed or not, the DoI (Digital Object Identifier), the publication references, and whether the publication is available under Open Access or not.

To submit a proposal please register to our web portal ahead.astropa.inaf.it **Please notice that due to a problem of registration of this secure Web site it could happen that your browser returns a “privacy” error and ask you what to do, in that case you have to force to continue the access and add, if you will, a permanent security exception for the site.**

Your proposal should be prepared by filling in the template form (blank template). The form is self-explanatory and few notes have been added to help its compilation. After compiling the form the proponent is asked to upload a single PDF file with a a proper name coding (as described in the proposal form notes). You must be logged in to access the upload tool.

For specific practical information about a given installation please send an email to the installation contact person directly. Below you will find a list with the various facility contact persons and their emails. **We would appreciate if in sending email enquiries you include some standard text in the Subject field, e.g. “AHEAD facility enquiry”.**

Summary of technical contact point for each of the AHEAD TNA installations

Installation Name	Contact Person	email
XACT	Alfonso Collura	collura at astropa.inaf.it
TVLAB	Pietro Ubertini	pietro.ubertini at iaps.inaf.it
IPC	" "	" " "
MEX	" "	"
LARIX-A	Enrico Virgilli	enrico.virgilli at unife.it
LARIX-T	" "	" "
LLBFT	John Pye	pye at leicester.ac.uk
VBC	" "	" "
SPATIAL (Shaker Device)	Marc Ferrari	marc.ferrari at lam.fr
FOCAL 2	Laurence Rossi	lrossi at ulg.ac.be
Shaker 200 kN	" "	" "
SERMS	Bruna Bertucci	bruna.bertucci at pg.infn.it
CEM	Antonio Faba	antonio.faba at unipg.it