

**Observatorio Astrofísico de Javalambre**  
**Call for Proposals**  
**Surveys with JST250**



Proposals are expected to be submitted to:

[JST250Surveys@cefca.es](mailto:JST250Surveys@cefca.es)

by 15 September 2026 at 23:59 CEST.

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## 1 - ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

The *Centro de Estudios de Física del Cosmos de Aragón* (CEFCA, <https://www.cefca.es>) opens a **Call for Proposals** for legacy Surveys with the Javalambre Survey Telescope (JST250) at the *Observatorio Astrofísico de Javalambre* (OAJ, <https://oajweb.cefca.es>). Observations are expected to start in 2027A.

1200 h	5 years	2027A
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Deadline: **15 September 2026 at 23:59 CEST**

Proposals should be submitted in PDF format to the following email:

[JST250Surveys@cefca.es](mailto:JST250Surveys@cefca.es)

## 2 - INTRODUCTION

CEFCA is a research center located at the city of Teruel (Spain) whose activities focus on the technological development and operation of the OAJ and on its scientific exploitation. All images acquired by OAJ telescopes are reduced, calibrated, and released to the astronomical community by the “Unidad de Procesado y Archivo de Datos” (UPAD).

The OAJ, located at the Sierra de Javalambre, in Teruel (Spain), is aimed to lead large-sky multi-filter surveys of the Northern hemisphere over the next years. The OAJ consists of two main telescopes of large field of view (FoV): the 2.5m Javalambre Survey Telescope (JST250) and the 80cm Javalambre Auxiliary Survey Telescope (JAST80), with polychromatic, seeing-limited images in their unobscured FoV diameters of 3 deg and 2 deg, respectively. Both telescopes are equipped with panoramic instrumentation: the Javalambre Panoramic Camera (JPCam), with  $\sim 1.2$  Gpix distributed in a mosaic of 14 large-format CCDs covering  $3.4 \text{ deg}^2$  at the JST250 focal plane and T80Cam, at the JAST80 telescope, providing a  $2 \text{ deg}^2$  FoV at the focal plane. The UPAD, a specific data center for the reduction, archiving and distribution of the large volume of data acquired at the OAJ (up to 1.5 TB per night when the two telescopes are in operation), completes the main OAJ infrastructures. It deploys a storage capacity of more than 5 PBs and a computing power of more than 500 cores with 3.8 TB RAM memory.

JST250 is devoted to conduct the Javalambre Physics of the Accelerating Universe Astrophysical Survey (J-PAS, <https://www.j-pas.org>), mapping thousands of  $\text{deg}^2$  of the sky with a set of 54 narrow-band contiguous optical filters plus 3 broader ones. J-PAS is conducted with JPCam since spring 2023. The J-PAS Early Data Release (J-PAS EDR) with  $12 \text{ deg}^2$  observed with all the J-PAS filters selected from the first year of observations were made publicly available in November 2024<sup>1</sup>. JAST80 is currently mostly devoted to conduct the Javalambre Photometric Local Universe Survey (J-PLUS, <https://www.j-plus.es>), with 12 narrow, intermediate and broad-band filters. J-PLUS survey started in November 2015 and recently released its fourth data release<sup>2</sup> (DR4), covering nearly  $5000 \text{ deg}^2$ . Both J-PAS and J-PLUS will provide powerful 3D views of the Universe and unprecedented multicolor information for many fields of the Astrophysics that are being made publicly available to the community as legacy projects.

The OAJ belongs to the Spanish map of *Infraestructuras Científico-Técnicas Singulares* (ICTS). As such, the OAJ offers a fraction of its observing time as Open Time to the astronomical community through the

<sup>1</sup> <https://archive.cefca.es/catalogues/jpas-edr>

<sup>2</sup> <https://archive.cefca.es/catalogues/jplus-dr4>

modalities of Legacy Surveys, Regular Programs (RP), including Targets of Opportunity (ToO), and Director Discretionary Time (DDT).

Following the survey spirit of the ICTS OAJ, and with the aim of maintaining the competitiveness of the facility in the next years, a specific open call for proposals<sup>3</sup> was made public in 2022 for the definition of the second-generation Surveys to be executed with the JAST80. The selected proposals<sup>4</sup> started on 2023. In addition, a call for proposals for Shared-Risk Programs with JPCam at the JST250 telescope was issued in February 2025. Six projects were approved for observation<sup>5</sup>.

In this context, this open call for proposals is released to define the next-generation Legacy Surveys with the JST250 Telescope.

Eligible projects must be observed with the JST250 telescope and its large field of view imager JPCam<sup>6</sup>. Available filters can be used, these include the J-PAS filter system composed by 54 narrow-band filters contiguous and equally spaced between 370 and 920 nm, plus 2 medium-band filters at 350nm and 960nm (see Figure 1). Three broad-band filters are also available: gSDSS, rSDSS, and iSDSS. Projects requiring the development of different filters are also welcomed. **The total open time offered amounts to 240 hours per year and extends over five years of observations.**

The submission deadline for the proposals is **15 September 2026, 23:59 CEST**. Proposals must be submitted in PDF format using the available document template<sup>7</sup> and must include the CSV file generated by the JPCam Observing Planner (JOP)<sup>8</sup>. Both files should be sent to: [JST250Surveys@cefca.es](mailto:JST250Surveys@cefca.es).

### 3 – JST250

The JST250 telescope is a 2.55 m, F#3.5 alt-azimuthal telescope with a Ritchey-Chrétien-like configuration. The focal plane corresponds to a Cassegrain layout. The M1 and M2 mirrors have hyperbolic aspheric surfaces. The telescope is equipped with a field corrector, located beyond the central hole of M1. This field corrector consists of three lenses made of fused silica, with four aspheric surfaces and diameters in the range of 500–600 mm. The two mirrors and the three lenses are designed to optimize the polychromatic image quality and maintain low distortion over the entire field of view, which has a diameter of 3 degrees (476 mm). A baffling system consisting of three conical baffles prevents stray light at the focal plane, whether from direct glimmer on the detector or unwanted reflections on M1 and M2. Overall, the JST250 provides an effective collecting surface of 3.89 m<sup>2</sup> (after accounting for the obscurations due to M2, the spider, and the baffles).

Because of the large field of view (FoV) and fast optics, the JST250 secondary mirror and the JPCam focal plane are actively controlled using two hexapod actuators: the M2 hexapod and the JPCam

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<sup>3</sup> [https://oajweb.cefca.es/observingtime/cfp\\_legacy\\_surveys\\_jast80](https://oajweb.cefca.es/observingtime/cfp_legacy_surveys_jast80)

<sup>4</sup> [https://oajweb.cefca.es/observingtime/oaj\\_ls](https://oajweb.cefca.es/observingtime/oaj_ls)

<sup>5</sup> [https://oajweb.cefca.es/observingtime/approved\\_proposals\\_list?tel=2&offer=54&offerName=2025B-2026A\\_JST250-JPCam\\_RP](https://oajweb.cefca.es/observingtime/approved_proposals_list?tel=2&offer=54&offerName=2025B-2026A_JST250-JPCam_RP)

<sup>6</sup> <https://oajweb.cefca.es/telescopes/jpcam>

<sup>7</sup> [https://oajweb.cefca.es/doc/tac/cfp/Proposals\\_Template\\_Legacy\\_Surveys\\_with\\_JST250.odt](https://oajweb.cefca.es/doc/tac/cfp/Proposals_Template_Legacy_Surveys_with_JST250.odt)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cefca.es/jop/plan/field.html>

Actuator System. The M2 hexapod controls the secondary mirror, while the JPCam Actuator System -an additional hexapod- controls the cryogenic camera position. This system utilizes wave-front sensors located at the periphery of the cryogenic camera focal plane. The actuator system attaches the cryogenic camera to the telescope and provides the required focus and tip-tilt adjustments to compensate for telescope deformations caused by gravity and/or temperature variations.

A software limit is set at 20 deg elevation, below which observations cannot be performed. Non-sidereal tracking capabilities are available.

## 4 – JPCAM AND FILTER SYSTEM

JPCam is a 1.2 GPixel panoramic camera mounted on the JST250. It is a direct imaging, large field-of-view (FoV) instrument designed to perform J-PAS. The camera consists of a 14-CCD mosaic using large-format, 9.2k-by-9.2k, 10  $\mu\text{m}$ -pixel Teledyne-e2V detectors. JPCam is installed at the Cassegrain focus of the JST250, providing an unvignetted FoV of 3.4 square degrees with a pixel scale of 0.2267 arcsec/pixel. Table 1 shows JPCam main characteristics.

At the time of writing this document, the commissioning of the JPCam auto-guiding (AG) system is not completed so, for operational reasons, the longest integration time offered for a single exposure is 100 s, while the optimum maximum value is 60 s. As a reference, the  $5\sigma$  limiting magnitude for a point source in a single 100 s exposure under optimal observing conditions is 23 mag in the iSDSS broad-band filter and 21.6 mag in the J0660 narrow-band filter. During the expected execution of the surveys (2027-2031), the auto-guiding system's commissioning will be completed. Once the AG system has been validated, longer integration times will be allowed. The minimum exposure time is 0.1 s.

CCD format	$14 \times 9216 \times 9232 \text{ pix}$ , $10 \mu\text{m pix}^{-1}$ 1.2 Gpix camera
Pixel scale	$0.2265'' \text{ pix}^{-1}$
Unvignetted FoV	$3.4\text{deg}^2 - (14 \times) 0.48\text{deg} \times 0.51\text{deg}$
Read out time (633kHz)	10.9 s (full frame) – 6.1 s (2x2 binning)
Read out noise (633kHz)	$5.5 e^-$ (RMS)
Read out time (400kHz)	16.4 s (full frame) – 8.9 s (2x2 binning)
Read out noise (400kHz)	$4.3 e^-$ (RMS)
Gain	$2.274 e^- \text{ ADU}^{-1}$
Minimum exposure time	0.1 s
Exposure homogeneity	1 ms
Full well	$> 125\,000 e^-$
Dark current	$0.001 e^- \text{ pix}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$

Table 1: JPCam main characteristics.

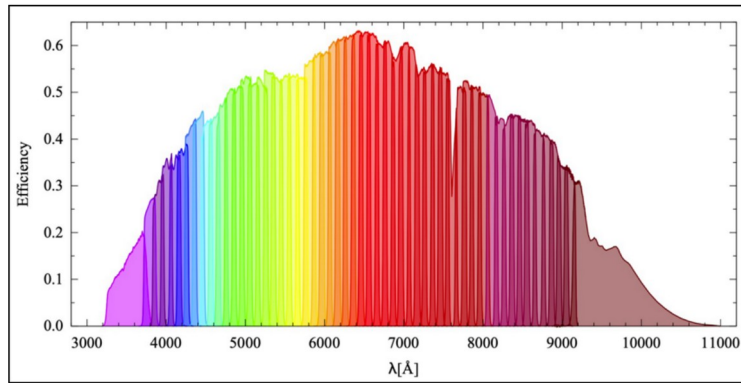


Figure 1: Measured transmission curves of the J-PAS filters including effects of the CCD quantum efficiency, the entire optical system of the JST250 telescope and sky absorption.

JPCam admits 5 filter trays, each of which has 14 filter holders, one for each of the CCDs. This system allows all J-PAS filters to be simultaneously installed on the camera, so no night-to-night filter exchange is required to execute J-PAS observations. However, additional filter trays can be exchanged during day-time if needed by other observation programs. Figure 2 shows the distribution of the J-PAS filters in Trays 1 to 4, composed by 54 narrow-band filters contiguous and equally spaced between 370 and 920 nm, plus 2 medium-band filters at 350nm and 960nm (see Figure 1). Three broad-band filters are also available, gSDSS (Tray 7), rSDSS (Tray 6), and iSDSS (Tray 5). Table 2 shows the main characteristics of the J-PAS and SDSS filter trays.

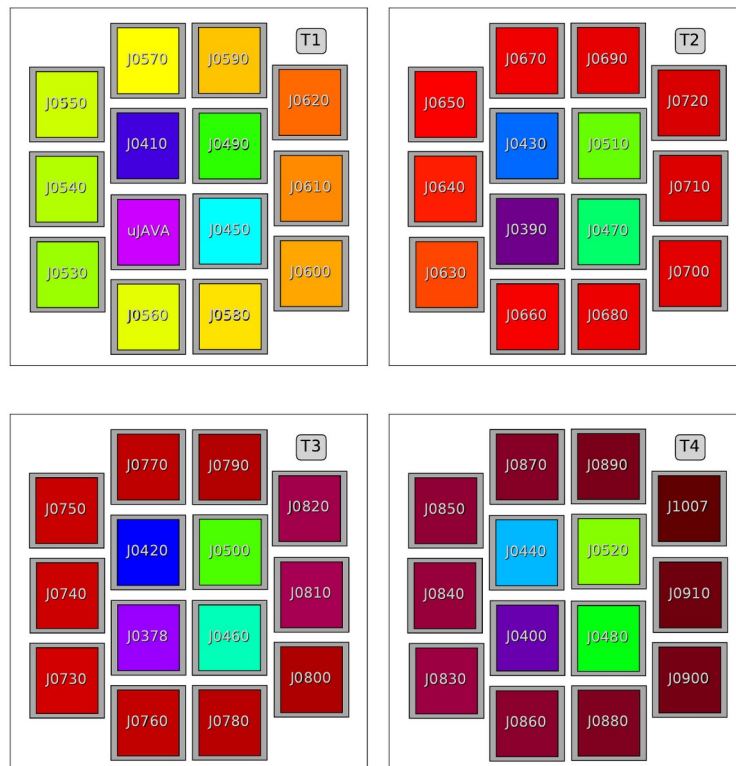


Figure 2: J-PAS filters distribution among JPCam filter tray assemblies from T1 to T4.

Name	CW (Å)	Width (Å)	Name	CW (Å)	Width (Å)
uJava	3545.16	345.29	J0660	6607.63	148.55
J0378	3796.72	147.53	J0670	6713.15	146.19
J0390	3904.35	132.92	J0680	6810.86	146.51
J0400	4007.05	136.80	J0690	6916.25	143.56
J0410	4116.21	139.40	J0700	7008.56	146.00
J0420	4209.93	141.16	J0710	7121.87	144.31
J0430	4310.85	141.40	J0720	7212.05	145.13
J0440	4408.62	143.66	J0730	7312.16	144.38
J0450	4515.05	143.74	J0740	7416.10	146.84
J0460	4608.91	143.95	J0750	7501.82	140.78
J0470	4705.05	140.72	J0760	7599.48	121.91
J0480	4808.56	140.71	J0770	7720.67	139.48
J0490	4906.78	148.71	J0780	7808.15	141.48
J0500	5005.77	148.39	J0790	7908.32	140.88
J0510	5102.18	146.66	J0800	8007.07	140.45
J0520	5208.42	149.27	J0810	8114.29	138.52
J0530	5304.05	150.59	J0820	8216.72	139.89
J0540	5397.35	149.54	J0830	8318.81	144.33
J0550	5502.11	146.03	J0840	8410.94	146.73
J0560	5604.63	148.23	J0850	8509.07	144.48
J0570	5710.16	148.83	J0860	8598.06	146.20
J0580	5811.75	146.34	J0870	8709.04	145.76
J0590	5920.18	147.62	J0880	8819.03	145.39
J0600	6010.29	148.38	J0890	8910.48	142.99
J0610	6117.67	146.63	J0900	9003.26	140.91
J0620	6209.24	147.18	J0910	9095.89	141.03
J0630	6312.87	147.53	J1007	9590.54	619.54
J0640	6410.68	146.51	gSDSS	4767.98	1206.30
J0650	6507.56	146.86	rSDSS	6245.36	1373.40
			iSDSS	7656.20	1399.82

Table 2: Main characteristics of the J-PAS and SDSS filters mounted on JPCam.

Table 3 shows default JPCam read mode main characteristics. The standard available readout modes of the CCDs are be “mode 02” for g, r, and i filters, and “mode 03” for the rest of the filters.

	Mode 02	Mode 03
Filter Tray	T5, T6, T7 broad band (i, r, and g)	T1, T2, T3, T4 narrow band
Readout noise	$5.5e^{-}$	$5.5e^{-}$
Gain	$2.274e^{-} \text{ADU}^{-1}$	$2.274e^{-} \text{ADU}^{-1}$
Binning	$1 \times 1$	$2 \times 2$
Readout time	10.9s	6.1s

Table 3: JPCam standard readout modes.

A project may require observations that differ from the standard configuration/modes offered in this document and the previous section (e.g., different filter distribution, no filter, longer exposure times, different readout modes, lower elevations, etc.). In such cases, contacting the observatory staff (email to [JST250Surveys@cefca.es](mailto:JST250Surveys@cefca.es)) to obtain feasibility feedback and the approval of the non-standard observation is required before sending the proposal. The proposal template includes a specific section (*Non-standard Observation Justification*) where the non-standard observation must be justified, and the observatory's approval for the requested non-standard observation must also be included.

## 5 – JPCAM OBSERVING TOOLS

To help PIs prepare the best possible proposal, the OAJ has developed the following support tools.

### 5.1 – JPCAM OBSERVING PLANNER

Different observational strategies arise from using T1 to T4, referred to as the narrow-band strategy, where each CCD observes a different filter, in contrast to using T5 to T7, referred to as the broad-band strategy. To design specific pointings for the area of interest for each project, OAJ has developed the JPCam Observing Planner (JOP)<sup>9</sup>.

Documentation has been created to describe these strategies and to provide guidance on using the JOP tool<sup>10</sup>.

### 5.2 – EXPOSURE TIME CALCULATOR

The depths reachable by JPCam can be obtained using the JPCam Exposure Time Calculator (JETC)<sup>11</sup>. We strongly recommend reading the documentation of the JETC carefully and using it to determine the exposure times required to achieve the scientific goals of interest.

An example of designing an observation for the nearby galaxy M101 is available here: [https://ojweb.cefca.es/doc/tac/observingtools/example\\_case.pdf](https://ojweb.cefca.es/doc/tac/observingtools/example_case.pdf).

We hosted a live online session to support users with the CfP details, observing tools, and the proposal submission process. The recorded videos can be found at <https://youtu.be/JI12v0832Ik> and <https://youtu.be/OPtqa3DXSIE>.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.cefca.es/jop/plan/field.html>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.cefca.es/jop/plan/static/help.html>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.cefca.es/jop/>

You can find the presentation in PDF format:

<https://www.cefca.es/nextcloud/index.php/s/zNnMdM6pZiGeM5r>

## 6 - OFFERED OBSERVING TIME

CEFCA opens a **Call for Proposals** for Legacy Surveys with the OAJ JST250 Telescope. 240 hours per year during a 5-year period are offered.

Eligible projects must fulfill the following requirements:

- Instrumentation:
  - Carried out with the JST250 telescope and its large field of view imager JPCam.
- Filters:
  - Available filters can be used, these include the J-PAS filter system, and the SDSS g,r,i filters.
  - The filter distribution among the trays follows the J-PAS filter distribution. Principal Investigators may also request a new tray configuration with a different filter distribution if required by their observing program. Such requests are subject to technical review and approval by the OAJ and should therefore be discussed with the OAJ before the proposal is submitted.
  - Projects requiring a different set of filters are also welcomed. In this case, the proposal shall include a description of the proposed filters characteristics and a feasibility study of its design and manufacture.
- Observing Time:
  - **The total offered time is 240 hours per year.** The observation of a minimum of 75% of the TAC awarded time will be guaranteed by CEFCA.
  - The length of the project shall be up to **5 years**.
- Observing conditions: Available observing time includes dark, grey and bright hours in a 50%; 25%; 25% proportion, as well as both photometric (60%) and non-photometric (40%). Projects covering the different observing conditions are encouraged.
- Starting date: Observations are expected to start in **2027A**. If the Survey requires new filters, the starting date will be accommodated to adjust to required filters availability.

Awarded surveys will be executed in queue mode. The visitor mode can be considered upon request depending on the available resources and logistics at the OAJ.

## 7 - DATA PRODUCTS

CEFCA provides access to raw and/or reduced and calibrated (using the standard procedures developed for the J-PAS project) OAJ data through the UPAD/TAC-Data web service<sup>12</sup>. Additional, non-standard developments in the reduction process and the calibration of the data shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

A brief description of the standard data reduction pipeline and photometric calibration is provided in **Annex 1**.

Delivered data account for:

- The raw scientific data.
- Calibration frames (bias/overscan/flatfields).
- The scientific data reduced in a standard way with the most-recent version of the OAJ pipelines developed by the CEFCA team for the J-PAS project. These data include:
  - Astrometrized, processed images compressed with 'fpack' software.
  - Preliminary catalogues of the detected sources and their instrumental photometry.
  - Configuration files and logs.
- Quick access to preliminary reduced individual images can be provided upon request which must be scientifically justified in the Proposal.
- Photometric calibration.
- Coadded images (if required).

OAJ guarantees the storage of these data during the duration of the project, which will be available to the Survey team once the raw images have been processed by the standard pipeline and validated at CEFCA.

CEFCA staff is continuously developing and implementing upgrades of the system to optimize the overall performances. Although we will try to notify important upgrades, take into account that the reduction pipeline may change and the offered processed data may be updated without prior notice. If you think this can be critical for your project, we encourage you to keep track of the data versions.

Besides the standard data offering via the TAC-Data service, there exists the possibility of hosting a web frontend at CEFCA to provide access to the project data, including images and catalogues, through the UPAD data access portal<sup>13</sup> and via Virtual Observatory protocols. This possibility depends on the project details (filters, observational strategy, data structure, etc.) and shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://tacdata.cefca.es/login>

<sup>13</sup> <http://archive.cefca.es/catalogues>

Additional support regarding the data could be provided by the OAJ staff on a best-effort basis. In case it is needed, please, contact oaj-upad at cefca.es.

## 8 - DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Given the expected Legacy Value of the awarded projects, the Research Groups of the Surveys are expected to release higher-level data products that have legacy value for the community. The data management plan (DMP) shall include a detailed list of expected science data products and timeline for their release.

In addition, it is advisable to provide an estimation of the overall data volume production (from raw to final processed data) that will also help the Survey Teams to estimate the required resources to store and process the data as well as to detect any possible overhead resulting from its transmission.

The Research Group must include a realistic plan for Data Releases (DR) of the Survey. The plan should justify the expected number, cadence, and content of the data releases. Default proprietary time is one year since the Research Team has access to the data products. If an extended period of proprietary time is required, it must be justified. Non-standard proprietary time shall be approved by CEFCA/OAJ after taking the OAJ-TAC recommendation into account.

A publication plan, including the main expected articles from the Survey, is also desired

The DMP should include the available resources to publish and share the data; for example database infrastructure, virtual observatory compliant tools, storage capabilities, web frontend, etc.

Upon request, CEFCA may offer support to develop the infrastructures needed for the publication of the data, including databases and web front-ends like those available in CEFCA's Catalogues Portal (<https://archive.cefca.es>).

## 9 - RESEARCH GROUP REQUIREMENTS

Scientific exploitation and data management of the awarded project/s shall be guaranteed. With this aim, the following requirements shall be fulfilled by the Research Group leading a project at the time of submitting the observing time proposal:

- The groups shall provide an estimation of the data production rate and the total data volume foreseen to be produced by the project.
- The groups shall have access to the required computing and storage facilities to handle the project data, including its final publication. This may include UPAD services upon discussion with CEFCA.
- The groups shall have access to the required scientific and technical human resources to process and analyze the project data.

Proposals shall include the scientific rationale, emphasizing the *Legacy Value* of the data, and an overall description of the observing strategy and the filter system requested.

## 10 - SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION PROCESS

### 10.1 - SUBMISSION PROCESS:

Detailed submission instructions can be found in the following link:

[https://oajweb.cefca.es/observingtime/cfp\\_legacy\\_surveys\\_jst250](https://oajweb.cefca.es/observingtime/cfp_legacy_surveys_jst250)

Proposals shall be prepared using the available template, include the CSV file generated by the JPCam Observing Planner, and be submitted via email to [JST250Surveys@cefca.es](mailto:JST250Surveys@cefca.es) by 15 September 2026 at 23:59 CEST.

### 10.2 - EVALUATION PROCESS

Proposals are being evaluated by the OAJ Time Allocation Committee (OAJ-TAC). The meeting of the OAJ-TAC will take place at CEFCa at least 2 months in advance to the beginning of the observations.

The OAJ-TAC will also evaluate the progress of the awarded surveys' execution on a yearly basis. To this aim, the research teams will be requested to provide periodic survey reports.

## 11 - SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION

Once the Proposals' evaluation is completed, an iterative process to complete the detailed definition of the awarded surveys will take place. In this process, the research team is expected to interact with CEFCa to optimize the survey definition and strategy taking into account technical, logistics and planning aspects. After the detailed definition of an awarded survey is completed, the Principal Investigator will have to define the correct way to carry out the observations.

## 12 - EXPECTED TIMELINE

- Call for Proposals OPEN: **9 July 2026**
- Call for Proposals CLOSED: **15 September 2026**
- Awarded Surveys announcement: **November 2026**
- Agreements and Survey implementation: **November-December 2026**
- Beginning of observations: **January 2027<sup>(\*)</sup>**

*(\*) If the Survey requires new filters and/or new instrumentation the starting date will be programmed according to the technical requirements.*

## **Annex 1 - Standard data reduction pipeline and photometric calibration**

### Standard Data reduction pipeline:

Currently, the standard data processing consists on the following steps:

1. Construction of master frames of bias, overscan regions, non-linearity correction, sky flat fields, background, illumination correction.
2. Construction of bad pixel masks from master bias and master flat fields.
3. Detrending of the scientific raw image, including:
  1. Overscan subtraction.
  2. Non-linearity correction.
  3. Flat field correction.
  4. Background image computation.
  5. Illumination correction (icor).
4. PSF analysis.
5. Astrometrization.
6. Generation of a final catalog of sources.
7. Generation of a mask identifying bad pixels and pixels assigned to objects (segmentation map).
  1. This mask is also stored as an HDU in the final reduced image.

### Photometric Calibration

The photometric calibration of the reduced images will be performed using the methodology developed for the J-PAS project, which currently consists of comparing the observed photometry with synthetic photometry from the BEst STar database (BEST) catalog (Xiao et al. 2026)<sup>1415</sup> derived from Gaia XP spectrophotometric data and observations of standard stars. Whenever a large enough dithering pattern is adopted, a photometric homogenization is performed using independent photometry from the overlapping regions. The BEST-based zero points are then refined by minimizing the photometric differences between these overlapping areas.

The use of other calibration methodologies will be assumed by the Survey Research Team.

We hosted a live online session to support users with the CfP details. The data processing and access presentations were recorded and can be found here <https://youtu.be/JI12v0832Ik>.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://nadc.china-vo.org/data/best/>

<sup>15</sup> Xiao K., Huang Y., Yuan H. et al. 2026 [NatSD 13 265](#)

You can find the presentations in PDF format:

Data processing <https://www.cefca.es/nextcloud/index.php/s/6mwgDYAnswJoSrz>

Data access <https://www.cefca.es/nextcloud/index.php/s/g3omS6ajMt3KRZk>