

## Update: e-MERLIN Legacy Programme



The *e*-MERLIN upgrade is well underway and the full network should be available in 2009/10, offering  $\mu\text{Jy}$  sensitivity and 0.05 to 0.15-arcsec resolution at 5 and 1.5 GHz. This update is to inform the community of the changed deadlines for the submission of Letters of Intent, now 30<sup>th</sup> May 2008, and full proposals, now 29<sup>th</sup> August 2008, and the rules governing their submission.

*e*-MERLIN is a major upgrade to the MERLIN array of seven linked radio telescopes across the UK, available in 2009/10, operated by the University of Manchester on behalf of the UK's Science and Technology Facilities Council. Operating at 1.5, 5 and 22 GHz, *e*-MERLIN will provide an angular resolution of 0.01-0.15 arcsec at a sensitivity well below  $10 \mu\text{Jy beam}^{-1}$  (12 hr) across fields as large as 30 arcmin.

The time available for the Legacy Programme will depend on the scientific excellence of the projects put forward by the community. The ambition of the Legacy Steering Group (the LSG – tasked with soliciting and establishing a Legacy Programme capable of fully exploiting the new instrument) is an allocation of ~5,000 hrs during the first five semesters of *e*-MERLIN operations, enhancing the programme that will arise through PATT.

LSG members have waived their right to lead *e*-MERLIN Legacy proposals and are available as scientific or programmatic advisors, with no strings attached. They are: Rob Ivison, Clive Tadhunter, Tom Ray, Ian Browne, Javier Alcolea, Elias Brinks, Jacco van Loon and Diana Worrall. Queries should be directed to Tom Muxlow ([twbm@jb.man.ac.uk](mailto:twbm@jb.man.ac.uk)).

### Proposals:

The *e*-MERLIN Legacy Programme is open to the worldwide community. Broad participation is encouraged, particularly amongst young researchers and those new to the radio waveband. An e-mail exploder can be found at <https://lists.roe.ac.uk/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/emerlin-legacy> and information is also available via [http://www.merlin.ac.uk/e-merlin\\_legacy.html](http://www.merlin.ac.uk/e-merlin_legacy.html), including a link to the Legacy Programme wiki.

A successful legacy proposal will be self-contained and address important scientific questions. It will consist of no more than 15 pages (no smaller than 11pt font size): one page for the title, abstract and a complete list of team members; up to eight pages of scientific justification, including figures; one page to explain any link(s) to related datasets or Legacy Programme proposals; up to two pages of technical justification; one page to identify requirements with regard to pipeline processing and data archiving (data products must be compliant with the Virtual Observatory) and to justify any deviation from the default 12 months of data rights; one page to describe a viable management and resource plan, with clear demarcation of responsibilities within the team; one page to describe and fully justify the need for legacy status, rather than that of a conventional PATT proposal. One person must take responsibility for communication – hereafter, the coordinator. The coordinator will submit a Letter of Intent – a summary of the proposal's likely requests and objectives (1 page) with a preliminary list of investigators (additional pages, if required), following the template available on the Legacy Programme wiki – by midnight GMT, **30<sup>th</sup> May 2008**. Full proposals must be delivered by midnight GMT, **29<sup>th</sup> August 2008**.

Assessment of scientific potential, legacy value, feasibility and management plans will be undertaken by international experts.

Prof. Rob Ivison (Chair, *e*-MERLIN LSG)