

# Subaru/Gemini Collaboration Agreement

October 19, 2012

1. **(Purpose)** Recognizing the many advantages of increased collaboration and coordination between these two premier astronomical facilities, this agreement defines an expanded collaboration between Subaru and Gemini Observatories. As new instrument capabilities come on-line, the user communities of Subaru and Gemini observatories will have increasing interest in accessing each others' facilities. We therefore seek to expand the current Subaru/Gemini Time Exchange Program and search for ways to coordinate our future operations and instrumentation plans to the mutual benefit of both user communities. We intend for this agreement to be a long-term understanding between the Subaru and Gemini Observatories. It can be changed, as conditions warrant, by mutual agreement of the two Observatory Directors.
2. **(Access to Telescope time)** Subaru Users can apply for either Classical or Queue time on Gemini, exactly as if Subaru were a Gemini partner. Gemini Users can apply for classical time on Subaru. For Gemini queue time, one classical night on Subaru shall be exchanged for 10 hours of Gemini queue time, distributed among the different queue priority bands and observing conditions exactly as per the standard policy for Gemini partners. Subaru programs on Gemini can be of any length, as they can for normal Gemini partners. The Equality (paragraph 3) and Subaru Community Rights (Attachment B) sections below will apply to Subaru Exchange Time on Gemini. ToO time will be available on Gemini as it is for the Partners. The total amount of exchanged time per semester is variable; in the case of abnormally large or small amounts, it will be agreed between the Directors of the two Observatories.
3. **(Equality)** Under this agreement, Gemini users will be treated as regular open-use users of the Subaru telescope for their Gemini Exchange Time on Subaru observing programs. Subaru will be treated as a regular Gemini partner for Subaru Exchange Time on Gemini observing programs<sup>1</sup>.

3.1. The amount of time available in the Subaru/Gemini time exchange will be determined semester by semester in discussions between the Subaru and Gemini Observatories. It is understood that each Observatory may need to consult with their governance in order to increase the number of nights exchanged. In any

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<sup>1</sup> In the case of very low exchanged amount of time, distribution of time across bands and conditions is not viable and the exchange will employ a different formula. This is described in Attachment E of this agreement.

given Semester, the lower of the two communities' requirements will normally set the amount of time to be allocated at both observatories.

3.2. The amount of time available in the exchange will be defined in terms of number of nights, where in classical scheduling one night is one night (irrespective of time of year), and in queue scheduling time one night is defined as in paragraph (2).

3.3. The Subaru community will have access to all fully-commissioned Gemini instruments to which the Gemini community has access, and vice versa. Where the availability of a particular instrument at either observatory is conditional on demand, the other community's requests will be included in the demand calculation.

3.4. The use of PI instruments on either telescope is not covered by this agreement.

3.5. Both communities will be offered all observing modes available on the other telescope, with queue access at Gemini as described in paragraph (2). Subaru's time will in all respects be allocated, accounted and balanced in the same manner as all Gemini partners, as described on the Gemini web site<sup>2,3</sup> and in Attachment D. Briefly, the queue is adjusted to ensure that no partner suffers a disproportionate amount of lost time. This adjustment is normally made by modifications to each partner's allocation at the Call for Proposals. For the purposes of Exchange Time, the adjustment may be made either in the Subaru allocation on Gemini or the Gemini allocation on Subaru. Subaru will be notified at least 6 months in advance of any changes in the time allocation, accounting<sup>4</sup> and balancing policies.

4. **(Data Rights)** The proprietary time for data will be defined by the standard policies and procedures of the observatory that gathers the data. Changes in these procedures will be subject to notification in advance.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/observing-with-gemini/phase-ii-and-s/w-tools/observation-execution?q=node/11016>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/observing-gemini/telescope-time-charging>

<sup>4</sup> At present, time accounting is being done in a less-detailed manner, as described here: <http://www.gemini.edu/?q=node/11521>


5. **(New Instrumentation Planning)** Gemini and Subaru shall work to coordinate plans for future instrumentation development with a goal to provide an optimized set of instruments across both observatories to fulfill the needs of their communities.
6. **(Review)** If desired, this agreement will be reviewed by the respective telescope boards no later than two years after the date of signature.

This agreement is signed by the parties as of the date first given above:

**Subaru Telescope**

By:  Date: October 19, 2012  
Nobuo Arimoto, Director

**Gemini Observatory**

By:  Date: Oct 19, 2012  
Markus Kissler-Patig, Director