ESO user support and proposal preparation tools for MIDI

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General VLT operations scheme

- VLTI operations will follow the same procedure as established for the instruments at the single UTs.
- Point of contact is the User Support Group, usg-help@eso.org.
- MIDI in P73 is offered in Service and Visitor mode.
- Baseline choice and Sidereal Time are additional constraints.
- **Phase 1 proposal preparation**: Electronic submission of proposals; Tools: ESOFORM package, VisCalc, (ETC); Evaluation by the OPC.
- Phase2 proposal preparation: Design of observation by creation of observing blocks (OBs), i.e. specification of template parameters, target information, user defined constraints. Tools: p2pp, VisCalc, CalVin, (ETC).
- Execution of the OBs on Paranal.
- Archiving, data quality control, delivery of the data.

Documents

- MIDI user manual: from www.eso.org/instruments/midi
- MIDI instrument webpage: www.eso.org/instruments/midi
- Phase 1 information: www.eso.org/observing/proposals
- Service Mode guidelines: www.eso.org/observing/p2pp/ServiceMode.html
- Visitor Mode guidelines: www.eso.org/observing/p2pp/VisitorMode.html
 - P2PP tool: www.eso.org/observing/p2pp , p2pp user manual
 - Auxiliary tools: www.eso.org/observing/support.html

MIDI specific Phase 1 issues

- See the CfP and User Manual for available modes and baselines.
- VLTI/MIDI UT time allocation depends on no. of proposals and OPC evaluation. ESO recommends to propose observations that can typically be completed in one night or less.
- Slots of 1 hour per calibrated visibility point including one target observation and one calibrator observation.
- Calibrators have to be selected during Phase 2 preparation.
- Standard constraints: Moon (grey for V~16); Clear/photometric conditions for MIR; Seeing not important for image quality at MIR; service/visitor mode.
- Additional constraints: Baseline has to be specified in the proposal; LST can be specified at Phase 2 preparation (time justification).
- Visibility amplitude and correlated magnitude have to be specified in the proposal (with the help of VisCalc), as well as λ_{obs} (10.3 µm) and $\lambda/\Delta\lambda$ (20).

MIDI specific Phase 2 issues

- Preparation tools VisCalc (visibility calculator) and CalVin (calibration star selector).
- Creation of Observing Blocks (OBs) using p2pp application, Finding Charts, and README file.
- MIDI template manual will be available for Phase 2 of P73 from www.eso.org/instruments/midi.
- Check for MIDI specific service mode instructions on www.eso.org/observing/p2pp.
- LST constraint will be available in p2pp application.
- Baseline constraint will probably be indicated by the OB name.
- OBs include 1 target observation and 1 calibrator observation, and will be accounted with 1 hour, independent of source brightness.
- All calibrator observations will be publicly available through the archive.

MIDI specific preparation tools

- Visibility calculator VisCalc has already been released for P73.
- Calibrator selection tool CalVin will be released later.
- These tools are (will be) available at www.eso.org/observing/etc.
- => Demonstration of these tools by Pascal Ballester.