

Transnational Access and Service Programme 2013-2017

Overview

As a part of the SOLARNET project, the Transnational Access and Service Programme supports the access of the European solar physics community to some of the best European telescopes. To enhance the efficiency of data usage, external observers will receive also support for post-factum reduction of data, while standard pipelines are not fully developed, with the aim of providing them science-ready data. A successful Programme, which will bring together researchers of different nationalities, forms the basis for a long-term perspective of solar physics in Europe and for the operation of the European Solar Telescope, when it becomes a reality.

Every facility will offer an average of 20 observing days per year to external observers under this SOLARNET Programme. In addition to the telescopes **VTT**, **GREGOR**, **THEMIS**, and **SST**, located at Tenerife and La Palma, the **IBIS/DST** and **ROSA/DST** instruments, installed at the US Dunn Solar Telescope, are also offered by this programme. This is possible thanks to an agreement with the National Solar Observatory to open the DST to the European community.

SOLARNET is also supporting the access to the most demanded European Science Data Centre, providing data gathered by the solar satellite **Hinode** (**SDC Europe**) and the **Solar Dynamics Observatory** (**BE-WISSDOM** and **GSC-SDO**). Travel and subsistence grants to be on-site during the observations are also available



VTT – Tenerife



THEMIS – Tenerife



SST – La Palma



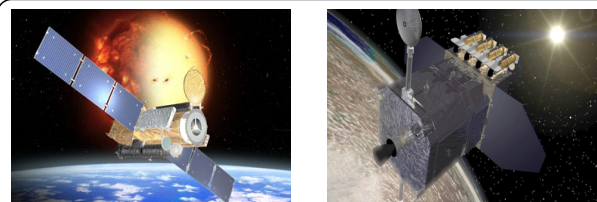
GREGOR – Tenerife



DST



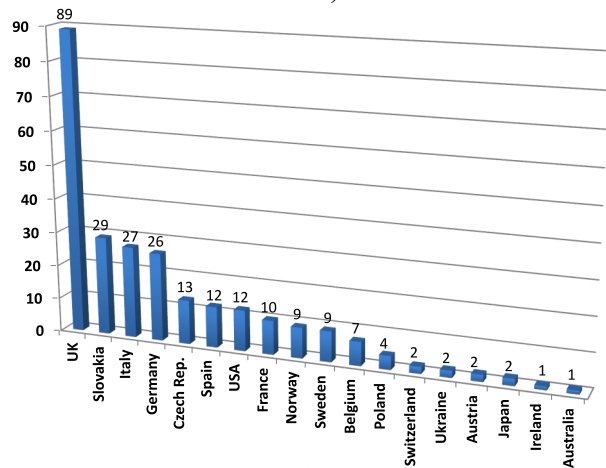
IBIS & ROSA at DST - US



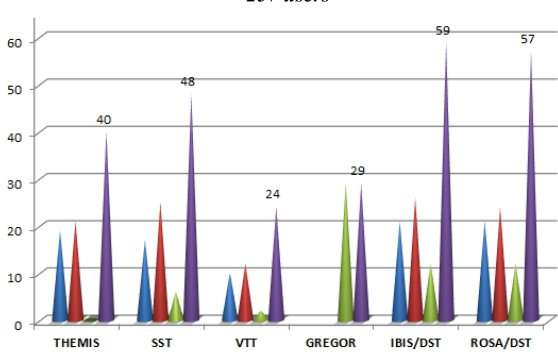
DB repositories: SDC Europe / BE-WISSDOM / GSC-SDO

Results 2013-2015

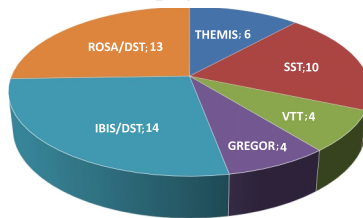
Nr of users / country of home institution
257 astronomers, 18 countries



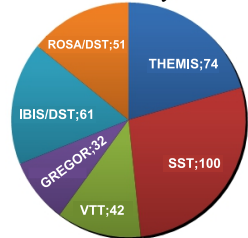
Nr of users / Telescope & Instrument
257 users



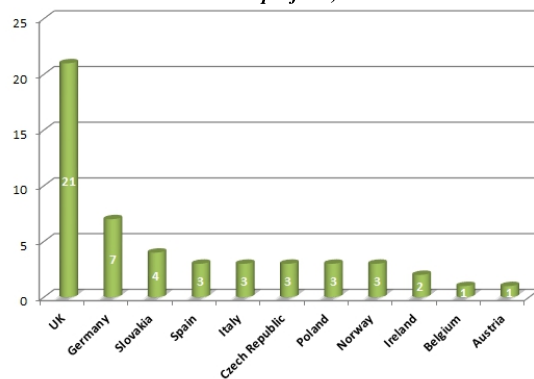
Projects / Telescope & Instrument
51 projects



Observing days / Telescope & Instrument
360 obs. days



Nr of projects (teams) / PI home institution
51 projects, 11 countries



During three calendar years of the SOLARNET TAS Programme:

- ✓ 360 observing days at THEMIS, SST, GREGOR, VTT, IBIS/DST and ROSA/DST
- ✓ 79,8% of the total expected amount of access to be provided under four-year contract
- ✓ 257 astronomers (team members) from 18 countries; 51 groups (projects) were involved
- ✓ 44 users received travel and subsistence grants to be on-site during the observations
- ✓ 50% of these users visiting the facility under the Programme were new users.

EXTERNAL USERS ARE WELCOME TO APPLY FOR OBSERVING TIME AND DATABASE ACCESS

How to apply for Access

Eligible user groups interested in applying for telescope time are invited to do it in response to the specific Announcements of Opportunity that will be published at the SOLARNET web site.

In general terms, these announcements for observing time will be published once a year, and potential users have to submit their application following the guidelines available at the SOLARNET website.

On the other hand, access to database repositories supported by SOLARNET is internet-based and completely open. Researchers worldwide are welcome.

Criteria of eligibility

To be eligible to benefit from this access a user group must satisfy the following three conditions:

- The user group leader and the majority of the users must work in an institution established in an EU Member State¹ or in an EU FP7 Associated State²
- The user group leader and the majority of the users must work in a country other than the country(ies) where the legal entity(ies) operating the infrastructure is(are) established³
- User groups requesting access will submit an application following the conditions and deadlines of the Announcements of Opportunity yearly published by SOLARNET.

The selection will be based on scientific merits and technical feasibility. Special targeted groups (new users, users from countries with no similar facilities, etc.) will be prioritized under equally scored proposals.

Due to the limited amount of funds, those users meeting these criteria of eligibility are not automatically granted with telescope time under the Programme. Successful candidates will be contacted well in advance.

¹EU 28 Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

²EU FP7 Associated States: Norway, Switzerland, Israel, Iceland, Turkey, Croatia, Liechtenstein, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Republic of Moldova.

³EU countries excluded by this condition are: Germany and Spain at GREGOR and at VTT; France and Spain at THEMIS; Sweden and Spain at SST; Italy at IBIS/DST; and UK at ROSA/DST.

Travel & Subsistence Grants

Observing teams awarded with telescope time under the SOLARNET TAS Programme receive free access to the telescope as well as scientific and technical support to carry out the observations. EC funds are also available to cover travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses during the observing run. A maximum of two members from the research team can be supported. We encourage group leaders to involve new users and/or young researchers as beneficiaries for, at least, one of the travel and subsistence grants available. In any case, it is the responsibility of the group leader to decide which member of the team will be supported.

In the event the proposed beneficiary for these grants was not included into the original proposal (i.e. new PhD students, etc), group leader will be requested to justify it. Please, make sure that the inclusion of new members does not turn your team into a non eligible one, according to EC rules.

Once the group leader has received official confirmation of the amount of telescope time awarded, he/she is invited to inform about those team members who will benefit from travel and subsistence support.

Any observer from an eligible and successful team can be supported with these travel and subsistence grants regardless of whether in his/her particular case meets the conditions of eligibility.

More information

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