



Macquarie University Division of Information & Communication Sciences
Physics Department

The PILOT Roadshow

A discussion of PILOT's scientific capabilities and industry opportunities.

Presented by: Prof Michael Burton, Prof John Storey, Dr Jon Lawrence (UNSW) & Dr Will Saunders(AAO).

PILOT (the Pathfinder for an International Large Optical Telescope) is a proposed 2.4m optical/infrared telescope for Dome C on the Antarctic plateau, where the median seeing is 0.3" and the thermal backgrounds 1 - 2 orders of magnitude below temperate sites. It would be a joint European/Australian facility, with target first light in 2012. The proposed design accommodates both diffraction-limited and wide-field seeing-limited observations, from 0.4 to 20 microns. Key science drivers include Galactic ecology, the oldest galaxies, the most distant gamma-ray bursters, and the equation of state of the Universe.

The PILOT Roadshow is intended to spread awareness and initiate creative thought about the unique possibilities of the project. We are also inviting feedback on our strawman design, to ensure that we best meet the science requirements of the community. We will present technical, scientific and political overviews of the project, with plenty of time for feedback and discussion.

There will be a 60 minute presentation, followed by an extended discussion session. This will be the last PILOT Roadshow, and we extend a particularly warm invitation to representatives from industry.

When: 3 – 5 pm, Thursday 5 June
Where: E7B 100, Macquarie University

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The PILOT design study is part of an initiative of the Australian government being conducted as part of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy.