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JODRELL BANK

01477 571618



Jodrell Bank Observatory

Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 9DL
 Telephone 01477 571321 Fax 01477 571618

Director: Professor A.G. Lyne, FRS



THE UNIVERSITY
 of MANCHESTER

Ai Consejo
 Interno
 01477 571618

JM/ps

19th January 2000

Dra Silvia Torres
 Directora
 Instituto de Astronomia
 UNAM
 Cd. Universitaria
 Mexico, 04510, D.F.
 PRESENTE

Dear Silvia,

As you know, the Manchester Echelle Spectrometer (MES 2) has been operated since April 1995 on the 2.1 m telescope of San Pedro M'artur in a very successful way in collaboration with Dr Alberto Lopez.

That instrument has now been returned to the UK and the Manchester group are proposing to send a similar version to SPM (MES 1) to operate as a common-user instrument. The suggested terms of this new arrangement would be as follows:

Manchester would provide the spectrometer with all essential parts for its operation, such as an Echelle grating, calibration lamps and slits and would leave it at SPM for its general use. Initially a simple mode would be organized for common-use so that observations can be supported by the night-assistants.

The IAUNAM would only have to contribute (1) a set of interference filters to isolate the Echelle orders and (2) integrate the control functions into the telescope operating scheme.

The expenses for transportation and insurance of MES 1 from the UK to Ensenada would be paid by Manchester. The IAUNAM would cover any local taxes that may arise to get the instrument into Mexico.

Likewise, Manchester would cover the costs of shipping the instrument back to the UK at the end of the agreement though, more likely, the instrument would stay at SPM through an extension of the agreement.

The adaptations required by MES 1 to operate at SPM will be performed by the technical group at the IAUNAM-Ensenada. The basis modifications required can be very simple or more extensive depending on the level of sophistication for the control of the instrument that the people at the IAUNAM may wish to implement. It is better to be progressive over a period of use.

In collaboration with Dr Alberto Lopez, a technical manual to install and maintain MES 1 at the telescope and a basic user's manual would be provided as part of the instrument.


In exchange for this arrangement the Manchester group would request to have guaranteed observing time at the 2.1 m telescope of SPM i.e. 1 dark and 2 grey nights per semester. One commissioning night would be required at the start of this programme.

An approximate timetable could be:

Feb. 2000	ship instrument from Manchester to Ensenada
April 2000	a week long visit by John Meaburn to Ensenada (at Manchester's expense) to discuss modifications.
Oct.-Dec. 2000	commissioning at SPM and start of this programme.

An initial period of 4 years is suggested for this collaborative programme under the terms specified above. Renewal of this agreement will be open for a further period if both parties wish to extend it. I hope you find this proposal reasonable, and that it gives adequate benefit to all sides. Please don't hesitate to let me know of any concerns.

With best wishes



Professor John Meaburn