



The
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Of
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Department of
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To whom it may concern

Re: UK – Thailand Capacity Building in Software and Hardware Infrastructures and Data Handling through Astronomy 2017

The Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, strongly supports Dr James Mullaney's application for funding linked to the project Newton STFC-NARIT: Using astronomy surveys to train Thai researchers in handling Big Data. This project involves exploitation of large volumes of datasets obtained with the Gravitational-wave Optical Transient Observatory (GOTO), which is a new wide-field robotic telescope based at La Palma Observatory whose primary science goal involves rapid searches of the large fields of view (100 sq. degrees) required for Advanced LIGO and VIRGO. This project, involving Warwick/Monash, NARIT, Sheffield, Armagh and Leicester, has signed an MOU with the LIGO-VIRGO collaboration and will also offer a wide range of time-domain science opportunities. Students will be trained in the development of databases to organise and Machine Learning algorithms to analyse GOTO survey data under the supervision of UK and Thai supervisors. GOTO was commissioned earlier this year and is providing access to wide field survey data, which is an excellent test bed for future, deep, high cadence surveys such as LSST, in which several GOTO team members are involved via LSST:UK.

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