

Status of the SALT Proposal Tools

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SALT Science Day, Mafikeng, 11 November 2013

PIPT

- *HRS functionality is included for both phase 1 and 2*
- *Director's Discretionary Time (DDT) proposals are supported*
- *Support of DDT (and commissioning) proposals needs tweaking (such as allowing time allocations)*

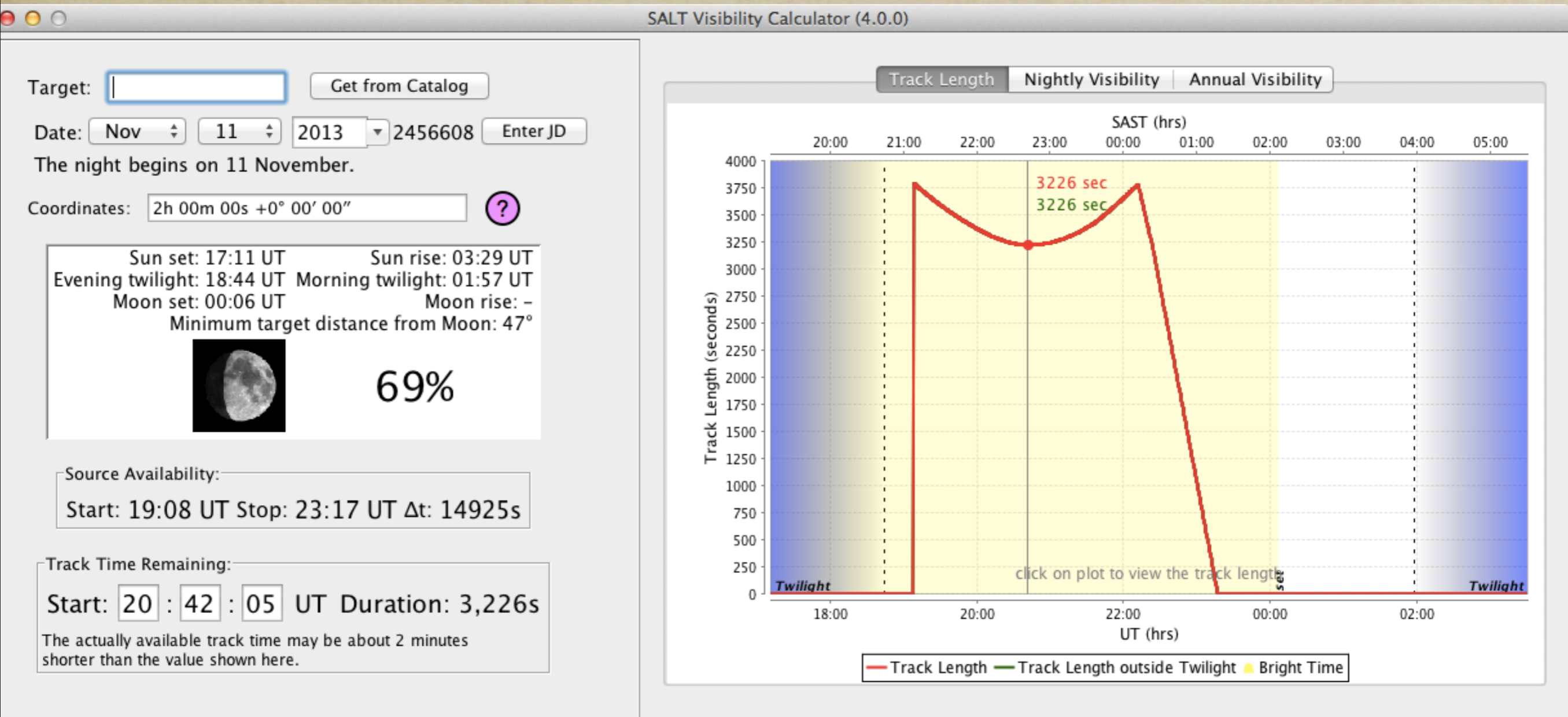
PIPT: Calibrations

- *The mapping tool now properly supports Fabry-Perot calibrations, choosing the correct wavelengths and lamps*
 - *Similar changes have been made for arcs.*
- *Calibration support must be more versatile and must include calibration blocks.*

PIPT: Observing Windows

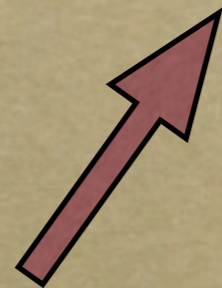
- *The calculation of observing windows is working well, but...*
- *They were a bit too restrictive (which is improved now)*
- *However, there needs to be feedback why an observation cannot be done.*
- *Preventing the Too-Tight-Track symptom remains an issue.*

Preventing TTT

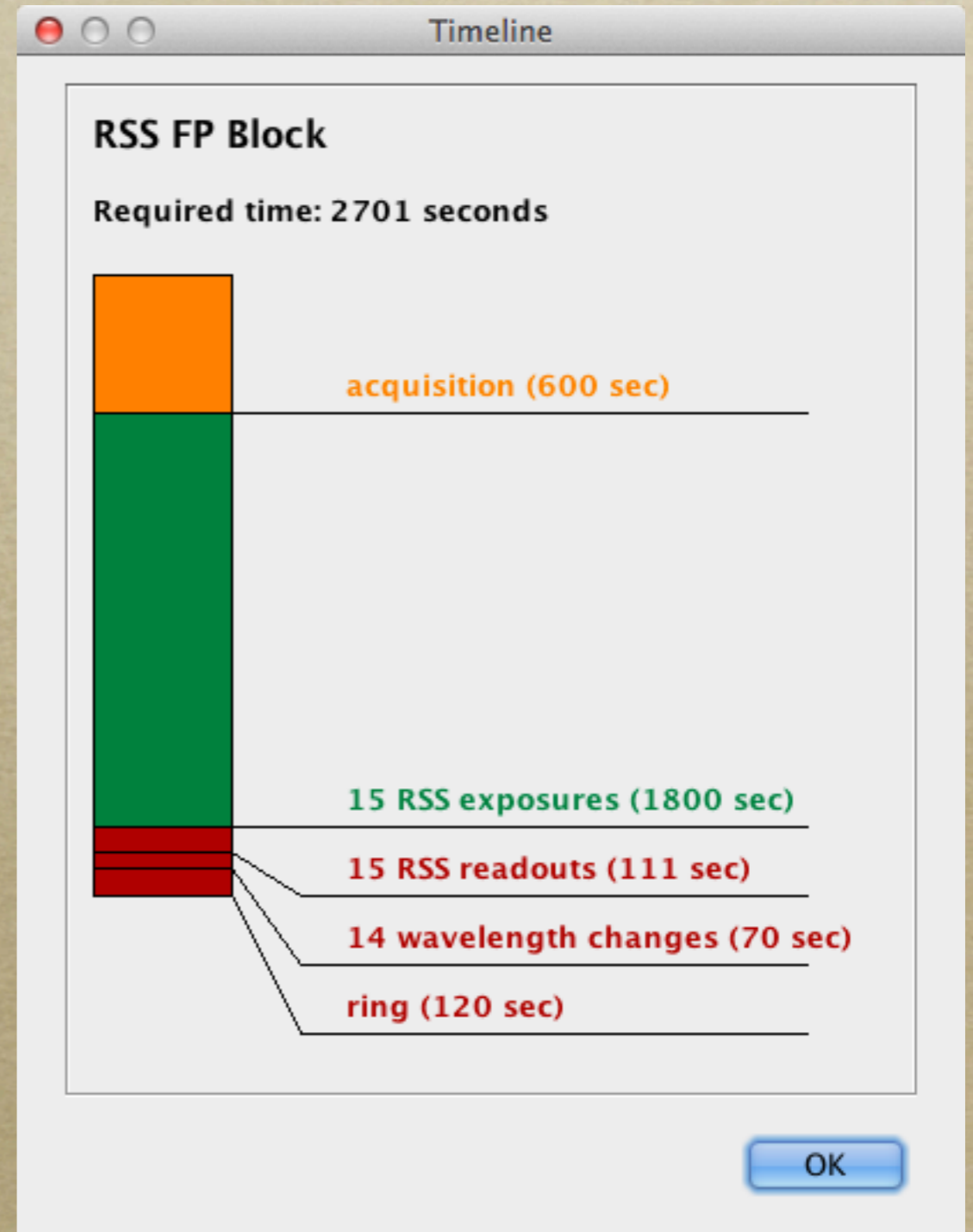


PIPT: Observation Timelines

- *You can view timelines in the PIPT*

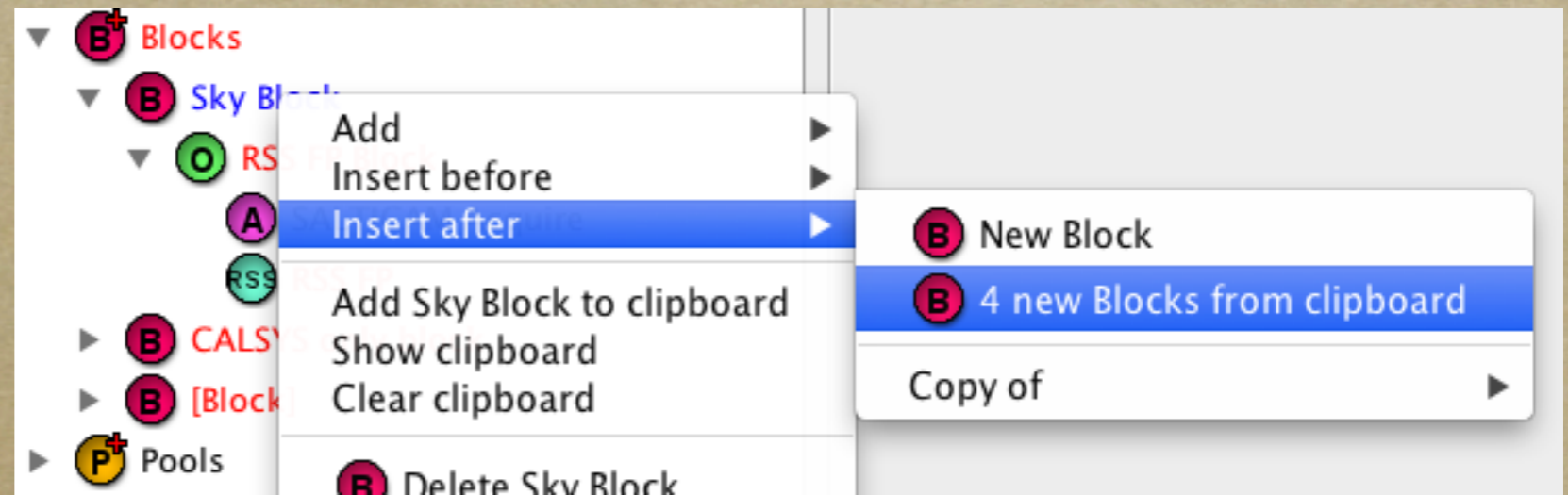
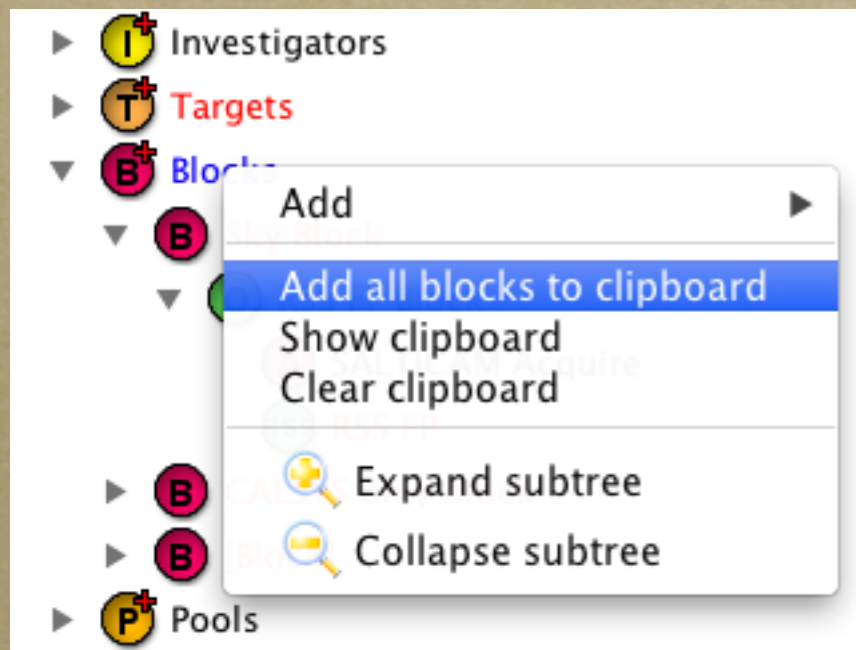


button for viewing the timeline



PIPT: Clipboard

- *Content of previous proposals can easily be moved with the clipboard*



PIPT: Many Blocks

- *Having to add more than a couple of blocks to the PIPT by hand is tedious*
- *However, you can create a template file, which you can use to automatically generate all your blocks*
- *A long-standing submission issue with large proposals should be fixed now*

PIPT: Non-sidereal targets

- *Look up ephemerides from the NASA JPL Horizons web service*
- *A Python script for generating finding charts for a non-sidereal target will be provided*
- *The PI will only have to select the folder with the relevant finding charts; the observing windows etc. will be generated from these*

Who might use this



*Requests for
observing time
related to the New
Horizons mission
are to be expected
next year*

PIPT: Challenges

- *Errors must be more informative*
- *Changes between submissions should be marked in the Web Manager*
- *Should simple changes always require resubmission of the whole proposal?*
- *Proposals spanning more than one semester should be allowed*
- *Proposal storage could be overhauled*

Web Manager

- *PIs can request old data from within the Web Manager*

Summary of executed observations

Please note that this summary may be incomplete.

Block					Observation details				Download Requests
Block	Observation time	Priority	Moon	Target(s)	Observation Date	Accepted?	Rejection reason	Edit	Data
									<input type="checkbox"/> Select/Deselect all
SCAMtoRSSfilters_Field1 (view details)	901 sec	1	Any	SDSS Field 1	2013-05-05	Yes		<input type="button" value="REJECT"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Request data
									<input type="checkbox"/> Select/Deselect all
									Calibrations
									<input type="checkbox"/> Request spectrophotometric standards
									<input type="button" value="SUBMIT"/>

Web Manager

- *New abstracts page*
- *Login fields in the menu bar*
- *Changes (mostly) for SALT Astronomers:*
 - *compact block view*
 - *improved tab for keeping track of MOS masks*

Web Manager: TAC Pages

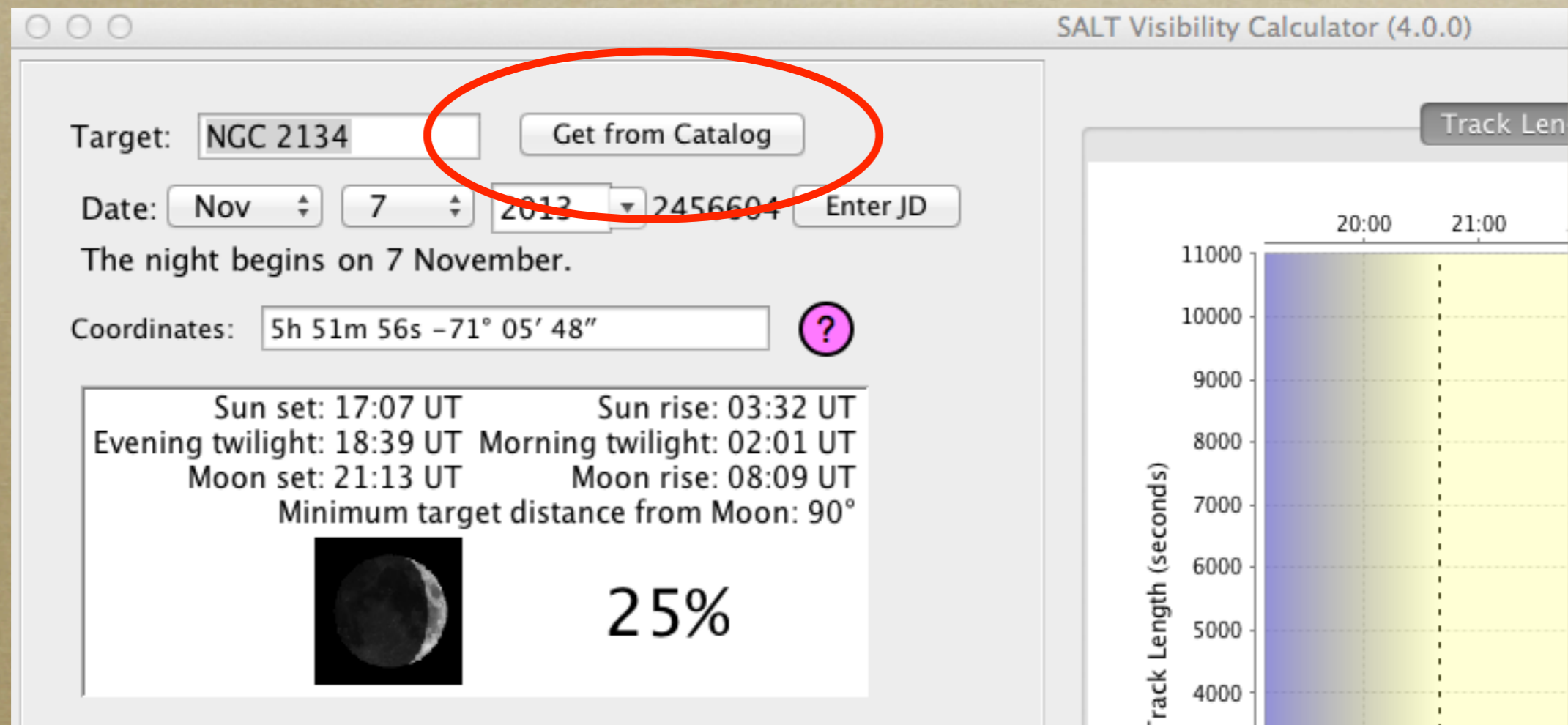
- *The TAC pages aren't particularly user-friendly, at least when it comes to entering time allocations*
- *Input from TACs in this regard would be appreciated*

MOS Slit Mask Tool

- *A matplotlib window indicating chip gaps, the RSS FoV and spectral coverage using pySpectrograph will be added*
- *Guide star positions will be available to help PIs tweak mask coordinates to ensure proper guidance during observations*

Visibility Tool

- *The user now can request target coordinates from SIMBAD/NED/VizieR*



Visibility Tool

- *You can compute visibility throughout a semester for a whole list of targets*

Parameters

First night starts on 2013-11-01

Last night ends on 2014-05-01

Time zone UT

Track limitation between sunset and sunrise

Output separator comma

Create one file per target

Ignore days with no visibility window

OK

Visibility Tool

- *Should it be possible to display more than one target at once?*

Simulator Tools

- *A simulator is available for HRS, based on Luke Tyas' ETC*
 - *The throughput model has been updated in the RSS Simulator*
- *Background estimate needs to be improved.*
 - *Handling of SNRs could do with improvements*
 - *Need for speed?*

Website

- *The current telescope status can be viewed on <http://salt4scientist.salt.ac.za/telescope-status/>*

SALT for Scientists

Astronomy Operations HQ



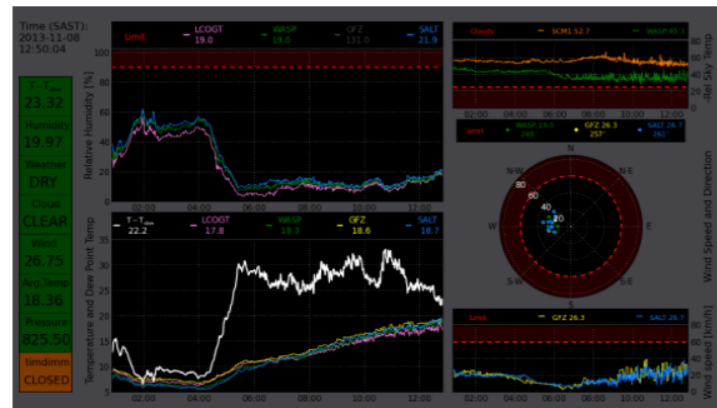
- Home
- Phase I
- Phase II
- PIPT
- Data and Results
- Software tools
- Web Manager
- Instrumentation
- Miscellaneous

Telescope Status

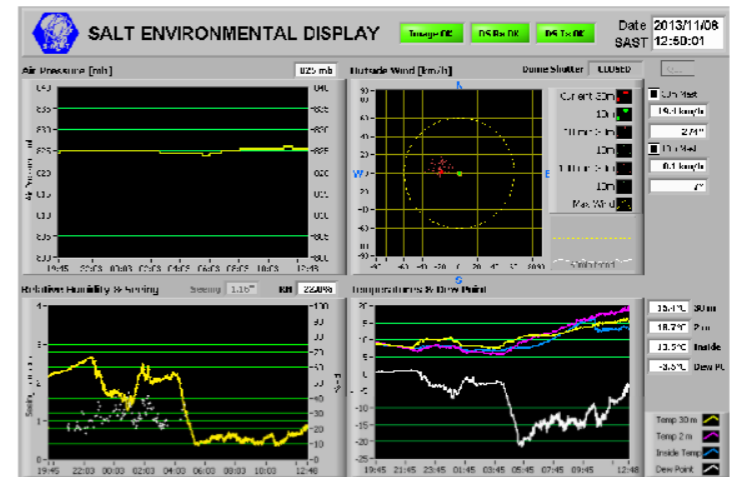
SALT Astronomer

Encarni Romero-Colmenero is the SALT Astronomer at the telescope.

Weather in Sutherland



Update every 10 minutes.



Update every 10 minutes.

Current RSS Filters

The following RSS filters are currently installed.

SLOT	FILTER
1	(no filter inserted)
2	pi04975
3	pi05145
4	pi05235
5	pi05520
6	pi06530
7	pi06645
8	pi06765
9	pi06885
10	pi07005
11	pi07130
12	pi07260
13	pi07390
14	pi07535
15	pi07685
16	pc04600
17	pc03850
18	pc03400
19	pc00000

Long term challenges

- *The world has changed in the last seven to eight years:*
 - *HTML 5 / Javascript has made inroad (e.g. Google Docs, Gmail)*
 - *Tablets and smart phones are (almost) ubiquitous*
 - *The bandwidth in South Africa has improved considerably*

Long term challenges

- *To what extent should proposal tools (such as the Visibility Tool or Simulators) be available online and/or for tablets?*
- *Java is not the language of choice for astronomers*

Your Turn!



*Your suggestions are
very welcome!*