



Argentina, 5th of June 2025

Chief of Staff, performing the duties of the NSF Director
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REF. Statement of Support for the Gemini Observatory

We are writing on behalf of the Argentine Astronomical Association (Asociación Argentina de Astronomía, AAA), which represents the professional astronomy community in our country.

The purpose of this letter is to express our deep appreciation for the crucial role the Gemini Observatory plays in Argentine astronomical research, and to share our perspective on the importance of ensuring that the Observatory continues to operate at the highest level, given its significance for international science and for the leadership of the United States in global astronomy.

For over two decades, Gemini has been a fundamental tool for training new generations of scientists and enabling competitive research across Argentina. Open access to this facility has resulted in numerous PhD thesis, peer-reviewed publications, and international collaborations—many involving U.S. institutions.

Beyond its value to its partner countries, Gemini stands as a model of global scientific cooperation, grounded in merit-based access, excellence, and geographic diversity. Its continued operation strengthens the international research ecosystem and reinforces the role of the United States as a central driver of 21st-century astronomical progress.

In this context, we also wish to highlight the strategic complementarity between Gemini and other major U.S.-led initiatives, such as the Vera C. Rubin Observatory, in which Argentine researchers are actively involved. The combination of deep, wide-field surveys and rapid, flexible follow-up observations with facilities like Gemini will be essential to maximizing the scientific return of these transformative projects.

As a community that has been involved with Gemini since its inception, we believe that initiatives like this not only benefit those who directly access its observing time but also foster international scientific networks that expand the frontiers of knowledge. We are deeply grateful for the NSF's continued commitment to international collaboration in science and remain ready to contribute—as a community dedicated to excellence, cooperation, and shared scientific progress.

Yours sincerely,

Asociación Argentina de Astronomía
(Argentine Astronomical Association)