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Taking the Nooitgedacht telescope to the next level

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The Centre for Space Research / Physics group at the NWU has an optical telescope located at Nooitgedacht, a 45min drive from the Potchefstroom campus. Since 1998, it has been used for practical astronomy experiments for undergraduate 3rd-year physics students. Initially a 30cm telescope, it has been upgraded a decade ago to a 40cm telescope. Additionally, the telescope has been used for public outreach activities, and for Hons and MSc projects, including my own. I will describe here what are our plans for this optical telescope, from getting a perfect pointing solution for the telescope, to getting the spectrograph software in working order, and getting the photometric zero points for our CCD camera. This will be presented in the context of the major upgrades happening in 2022 to the site, including a new radio telescope and several space physics instruments, along with major infrastructure upgrades.

Apply to be considered for a student ; award (Yes / No)?

Yes

Level for award;(Hons, MSc, PhD, N/A)?

MSc

Primary author: Mr HUG, Rigardt (NWU MSc Student)

Co-author: LETARTE, Bruno (Centre for Space Research, NWU)

Presenter: Mr HUG, Rigardt (NWU MSc Student)

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