Options and Issues with a "Large" Astronomical Telescope for NY Universities

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Astronomical telescopes come in a wide range of sizes and designs. The idea that institutions of higher learning in NY State might consider collaboration in development of a new telescope opens an exciting trade space. At the small end of the scale, telescopes two meters and smaller might be installed in a NY state location to provide easy access for teaching and instrumentation development. A medium sized telescope, 4-6.5 meters in diameter is a viable tool for leading edge astronomy given good instrumentation and programs. Larger telescopes in the 8-12 meter range are more affordable than ever given the technology developed by Keck, GTC, HET, and SALT. Remote observing is a reality today and would allow access to New York based PI observing even with a telescope located in the Southern Hemisphere. A brief look at the range of telescopes and the subsystems that enable their performance will aid in making decisions regarding the future of astronomy in New York State.

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Carlson Auditorium
Center for Imaging Science, Bldg. 76

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