



PITHIA-NRF offer access to European upper atmosphere research facilities

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One of the objectives of the PITHIA-NRF project is to provide effective and convenient access to the best European research facilities for observations of the upper atmosphere, including the plasmasphere, ionosphere and thermosphere. The access is organised through the Trans-National Access (TNA) programme, and provides an opportunity for researcher and other users to execute and carry out their own projects at one of the twelve PITHIA-NRF research facilities. Through these activities new users will learn how to work with the facilities during the full access cycle, from setting up a campaign, to collection, analysis and finally exploitation of data with the help of tools and services provided by PITHIA-NRF.

The PITHIA-NRF nodes provide access to key experimental and data processing facilities for studies and modelling of physical processes acting in the Earth's plasmasphere, ionosphere and thermosphere. The facilities connected to the nodes are geographically distributed over Europe, as well as internationally, and their expertise and dedication span over a wide range of topics within the research area. This variety of expertise and techniques, all with the purpose to study specific parts of the ionosphere-thermosphere-plasmasphere (ITP), allows for a common ground and a platform for a better understanding of the many different complex couplings and interactions within ITP as well as between ITP and the magnetospheric/space environment.

Users can request either physical access (one-week visit at the node with support at site) or remote access (one month access from distance with weekly support). Users with granted projects will learn how to work with the facilities during the full access cycle, from setting up a campaign, to collection, analysis and finally exploitation of data with the help of tools and services provided by PITHIA-NRF via the e-science center. For virtual access - typically referring to access to data and digital tools - there are no restrictions to the number of simultaneous users, and no selective process is needed. Access can be requested by scientific users from academia, Small and Medium Enterprises, large companies and public organizations by propose a scientific project.



Figure 1. The PITHIA-NRF transnational access nodes.