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To
The Rector
Prof. Dr. Igor Tsependa

Vasyl-Stefanyk Precarpathian National University
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Letter of support for the reconstruction of the Mount Pip Ivan observatory

Dear Prof. Dr. Igor Tsependa,

I am writing you this letter to support your ongoing efforts to reconstruct the astronomical and meteorological observatory on Mount Pip Ivan.

Picking up the astronomical tradition at PNU with a 14 to 20-inch telescope students of the PNU will get access to photometry of variable stars, exoplanet systems, smaller solar system objects, participate in follow-ups of larger projects (e.g. TESS) and much more. A high-altitude observatory will deliver better data because of the reduced air mass in comparison to an observatory at much lower height. Due to the harsh weather conditions it is necessary to protect the buildings of the observatory with a suitable roof construction and to consider the installation of an autonomous power source at this remote location.

I also particularly strongly support the intended educational perspective given by the international conference center that is in construction at Mykulytschyn, a place where students from Ukraine, Poland and the European Community will meet for workshops and projects in connection with the astronomical and meteorological observatory.

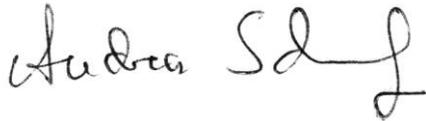
At Marburg University we are on the stage of establishing a remote observatory with 20-inch telescope for student's projects und public outreach. We are especially emphasizing a remote operation with the goal of a network of small university telescopes, in order to give students access to continuous monitoring variable stars and/or getting data from using other observatories if objects may not be locally visible due to day time, bad weather conditions, etc.

We already developed on open-source based software for control of an observatory via a web interface and are in close cooperation with Prof. Harinder P. Singh, Delhi, who initiated the U-SmART project (University Small Aperture Robotic Telescope). We are very open for additional partners, a cooperation with the new Mount Pip Ivan observatory would be very welcome.

In combination with the meteorological observatory and the International Center of Meetings of Ukraine and Poland this observatory will surely be a very attractive science center that will open new perspectives to the Precarpathian National University.

In summary, I very much endorse your university's observatory project and wish you all success!

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andreas Schrimpf'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

(Prof. Dr. Andreas Schrimpf)