

The Australian Optical Seti Project

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This paper discusses the progress and future plans for the Australian Optical SETI Project. The project began its dedicated search for ETI in the optical spectrum in the year 2000. It is searching for nanosecond laser pulses using electronic circuits wired up in coincidence mode to eliminate false signals. Unlike other searches it has used two optical telescopes arranged as a pair. It uses 0.4m and 0.6m optical telescopes. To date it has observed over 2,000 F, G, and K southern stars and 30 southern globular clusters with several repeats. The data collected from the observations is analysed using FFT. In December 2008 a sharp laser look alike signal emanating from 47 Tucanae was detected. However, further searches in the same region have failed to detect the signal again.