



NGC 2442 - This image was taken with one of the six telescopes making up PROMPT by the SSRO/PROMPT team.

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Skynet Robotic Telescope Network



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Skynet Robotic Telescope Network

Providing robotic observing of cosmic explosions and other astronomical phenomena from anywhere in the world.

Skynet is an automated queue scheduling program that allows people from all over the world to submit observations and retrieve data using a simple website. From this website users can monitor telescope activity and check current weather conditions at each of the observing locations.

To date, professional and amateur astronomers, students of all ages, and even the general public have used Skynet to take over a **800,000 images**.

Several telescopes in North Carolina, Colorado, California, and Chile are already part of Skynet, and several more across North America and Europe are in the process of being added.



PROMPT consists of six 16-inch telescopes located at the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory in Chile. The telescopes were designed for rapid response imaging of cosmic explosions. All six telescopes are a part of the Skynet robotic telescope network.

Through a partnership with the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, Project OBSERVE was created to give telescope access to schools across North Carolina.

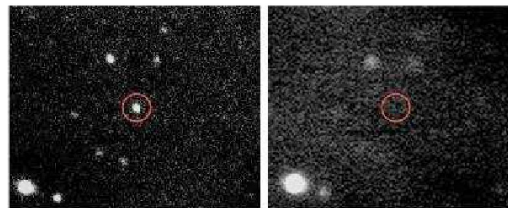
20,000 North Carolina high school students have taken images using the Skynet website.

"One particular student of mine has a Behavior Improvement Plan. He has difficulty relating to any of his teachers or classmates, or doing his class work. But using Project: OBSERVE, finding the right galaxy, learning about what was visible in the Chilean night sky, how to enter jobs, how to manipulate his rough photos, sparked an interest that no one had seen in this young man before!"

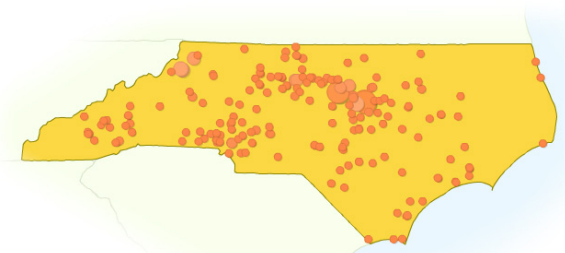
-Kathy Williams (Scotland County Schools)



One of the six 16-inch Ritchey-Chretien telescopes making up PROMPT



One of the most distant cosmic explosions ever seen was identified in September of 2005 using PROMPT (shown fading away in the image above). This explosion occurred 12.8 billion years ago when the universe was only six percent of its current age.



Locations of the 17,527 North Carolinians who visited the Skynet website from between January 1st and November 19th, 2008.