The Pikes Peak Observatory

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The Pikes Peak Observatory (PPO), Inc. proposes a 1-meter research-quality telescope and climate monitoring instrumentation that will offer 600,000 annual visitors to Pikes Peak an unmatched educational experience with public viewing and interpretive exhibits that celebrate astronomical and atmospheric research on the peak, past, present, and future. The Observatory can be visited by tourists during the day and operated remotely from the Colorado Springs or other locations, day or night, supporting research and contributing to the education and research missions at the Air Force Academy, Colorado College, Denver University, and the University of Colorado.

Integral to this project will be a smaller telescope incorporated into the Mobile Earth and Space Observatory (MESO) currently under development. MESO is a “science center on wheels” to engage and excite students, teachers, and local residents with hands-on educational and research activities focused on weather, climate, space sciences, renewable energy, and scientific instrumentation.

PPO is working with the City of Colorado Springs to evaluate siting options on the Peak and prepare a U.S. Forest Service special-use permit application to build and operate the observatory synergistic with the new Summit Complex design.

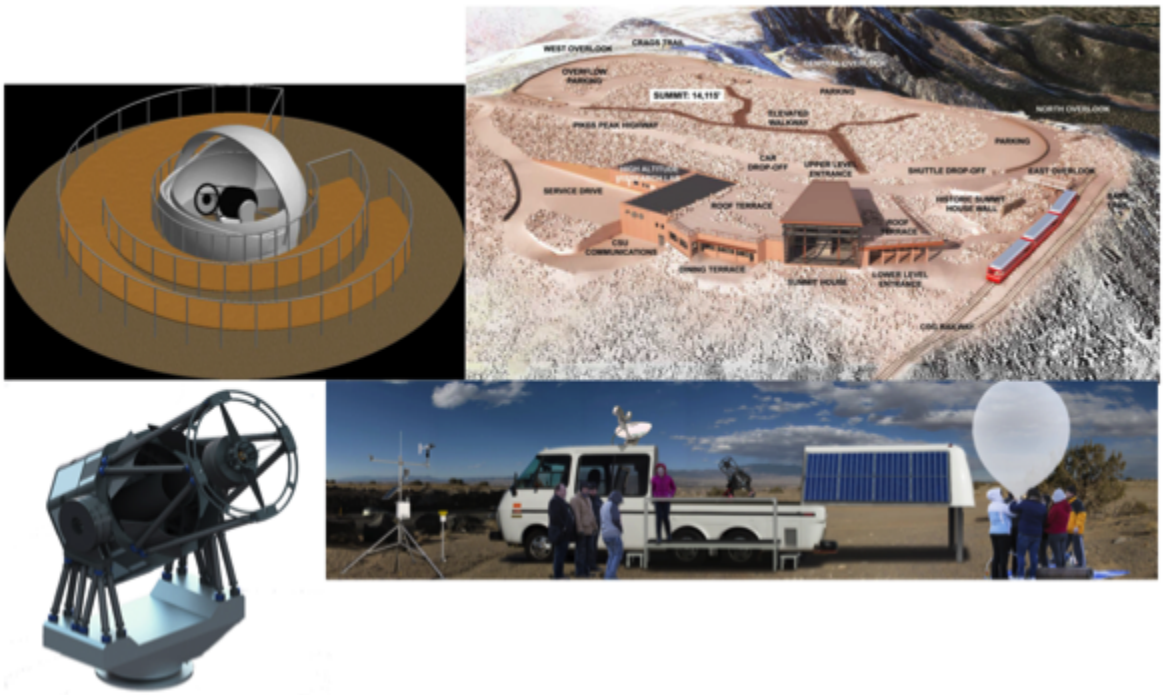

Figure 1. Proposed 1-meter telescope facility, Pikes Peak Summit Complex, and Mobile Earth and Space Observatory.