The Solaris project. A timing survey for circumbinary planets around eclipsing binary stars.

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Abstract. The SOLARIS project aims to detect from the ground circumbinary planets with the timing of eclipses of eclipsing binary stars. For the SO-LARIS project, we were granted 2.5 million Euro to establish a network of four robotic 0.5-m telescopes on three continents (Australia, Africa and South America) to carry out high cadence, high precision photometry of a sample of eclipsing binary stars. Three of the telescopes are already installed and the fourth one will become operational in early 2014. The project's web site is www.projectsolaris.eu/.

This effort is accompanied by our radial velocity (RV) survey for circumbinary planets which employs our novel iodine cell based technique tailored to provide very high precision RVs of double-lined binaries. Altogether these two efforts, targeting about 300 eclipsing binary stars, constitute the biggest ground based survey for circumbinary planets.

Moreover, we expect that both these efforts will have a significant impact on the observational stellar astronomy. In particular for at least half of our sample we expect to deliver masses of the stars with an accuracy 10-1000 times better than the current state of the art.