

HTRA-IV: Era of Extremely Large Telescopes

5–7 May 2010, Aghios Nikolaos, Crete, Greece

The goal of the fourth High Time Resolution Astrophysics (HTRA) workshop is to explore the current and future state of observations of all different types of astronomical sources featuring variability at the second and/or subsecond time scales. The three-day workshop has been planned to offer the community the opportunity to present contributions in different thematic areas covering science, instrumentation and future observing facilities. Selected science topics include: isolated neutron stars; X-ray binaries; white dwarfs and ultra-compact binary systems; stellar oscillations; flare stars; extragalactic transients (GRBs); and planet transits/occultations. Contributions in other science topics related to the field of HTRA are equally welcome.

The focus of the HTRA-IV workshop is on optical studies in all of the above science areas. In particular, the major emphasis will be on optical observations and on the potential of HTRA with the next generation of Extremely Large Telescopes (like the European Extremely Large Telescope, the Thirty Meter Telescope and the Giant Magellan Telescope) to make discoveries beyond our current state of knowledge and expectations. However, the workshop will also focus on multi-wavelength HTRA studies (radio, X-rays and gamma rays) both with present

(XMM, CHANDRA, FERMI) and future (e.g., IKO and SKA) observing facilities.

The purpose is to create a unique opportunity for interaction between the HTRA community and the wider astronomical community. This will stimulate discussions on the exploitation of the scientific potential of future facilities, on the development of their instrumentation, and on a number of technical and engineering aspects related to their design and operation.

Invited speakers include: Felix Aharonian (Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies), Werner Becker (Max-Planck-Institut für extraterrestrische Physik), Tomaso Belloni (INAF–Astronomical Observatory of Brera, Merate), Vik Dhillon (University of Sheffield), Isobel Hook (University of Oxford), Michael Kramer (Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics), George Pavlov (Penn State University), Ron Remillard (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Andrea Richichi (ESO) and Jürgen Schmitt (Hamburg Observatory).

Scientific Organising Committee: Cesare Barbieri (University of Padova, Dept. of Astronomy), Giovanni Bonanno (INAF–Astronomical Observatory, Catania), Vik Dhillon (University of Sheffield), Dainis Dravins (Lund Observatory),



Gottfried Kanbach (Max-Planck-Institut für extraterrestrische Physik), Nikos Kylafis (University of Crete, FORTH), Tom Marsh (University of Warwick), Roberto Mignani (University College London–Mullard Space Science Laboratory), Andy Shearer (National University of Ireland, Galway), Aga Slowikowska (Institute of Astronomy, University of Zielona Gora).

The workshop is organised as part of the OPTICON-funded European Network for High Time Resolution Astrophysics with the European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT).

Details and registration information can be found at <http://www.htra.ie/>.

Beyond 2009: ESO at the Closing Ceremony of the International Year of Astronomy

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The International Year of Astronomy (IYA 2009) officially closed with a ceremony held at the University of Padova where Galileo Galilei taught physics. A brief description of the ceremony and the contribution of ESO are presented.

On 9 and 10 January 2010 the International Year of Astronomy (IYA 2009) reached its official close with a ceremony that took place in Padova, Italy, in the Aula Magna of the University of Padova, where Galileo Galilei taught experimental physics and astronomy between the end of the 16th and the beginning of the 17th century (see the image on the Astronomical News section page).