

# Presentation of the VLT Project to European Industry



The ESO Director General, Professor H. van der Laan, opens the VLT Presentation on April 20, 1989, at the Munich Hilton Hotel.

With the decision by the ESO Council in December 1987 to fund the VLT Project, the Organization was faced with the greatest technological challenge in its 25-year history. All through 1988, ESO engineers and scientists worked to improve upon the initial design, often in collaboration with other academic institutions and frequently with European firms.

Now, the VLT Project has entered into a new phase, during which most of the industrial contracts will be concluded. In order to fully exploit the technological potential in the member countries, it was felt desirable to give a detailed presentation of the VLT project to interested firms in the ESO member countries. This would enable these firms to prepare themselves to participate in the tendering for VLT contracts. At the same time, personal encounters among their representatives might contribute to the establishment of possible international consortia for the major contract areas.

The VLT presentations to industry, organized by M. Tarenghi, Head of VLT Project Coordination and Control, took place in Munich during four days in late April 1989. They included detailed reviews about the VLT Optics and Optical Systems, the Opto-mechanical Systems, the Large Mechanical Systems, and the Infrastructure, Civil Engineering and Enclosures, respectively. Each day the presentation was opened by the Di-

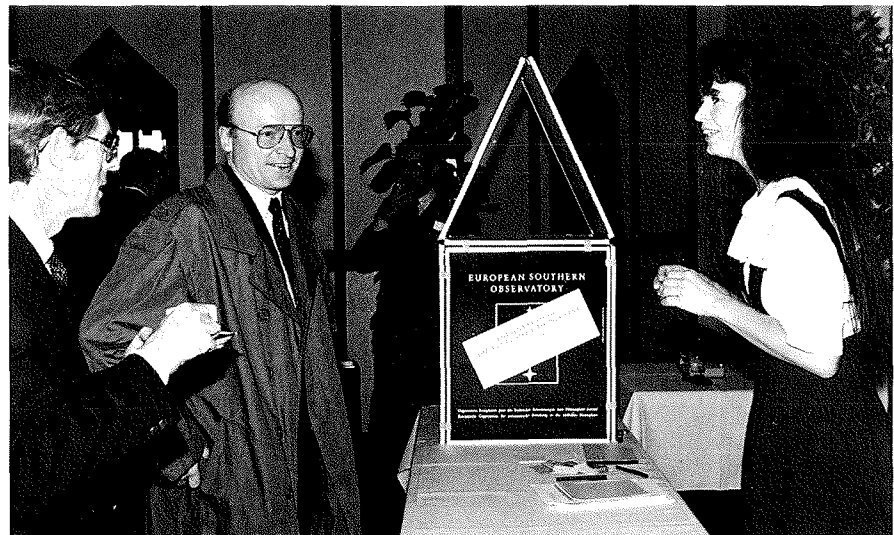
rector General or by Professor Tarenghi, followed by an overall review of the VLT project by the Head of VLT Project Engineering, D. Enard. Details about commercial procedures at ESO were given by R. Fischer, Head of Contracts and Procurement. Then followed reviews of the individual calls for tenders by senior staff members.

The participation by firms from the eight ESO member states was most gratifying; up to about 100 persons were present each day. There were many

questions, to which clarifying answers were given. Most of these concerned technical aspects of the VLT project, others aimed at a better understanding of ESO's mode of operation and the way the VLT contracts will be selected.

There is no doubt that these presentations were most useful to all involved. At the end of the fourth day, ESO and European industry had very successfully intensified the collaboration so crucial for the smooth completion of the VLT project.

*The editor*



Samantha Milligan, Secretary to the VLT Coordination and Control Group, had four busy days during the VLT Presentations. Here she is at the Reception Desk next to Dr. N. Wavre from ETEL S.A. (Switzerland) and ESO optical engineer F. Franza (left).