



February 1990 and the second programme, about millimetre astronomy, is due to be shown very soon. The pictures

show Patrick Moore and his team "in action" interviewing Jorge Melnick and Ray Wilson for the NTT programme.



The new ESO film had premiere on February 6, at the time of the NTT Inauguration.
C. Madsen (ESO)

Caltech and ESO Join Forces to Produce Sky Atlas

The California Institute of Technology (Caltech) of Pasadena, California, U.S.A., and the European Southern Observatory have concluded an agreement by which ESO will undertake the responsibility of producing high-quality copies of photographic sky survey plates obtained with the Palomar 48-inch Oschin Telescope and to distribute the resulting photographic atlas.

The second Palomar Observatory Sky Survey is a decade-long project to photograph the entire northern sky using sensitive photographic techniques. The new atlas of the heavens, contained on 2,682 glass plates or film transparencies, will serve as the basic astronomical guide to the northern skies for decades to come. It will be known as the *Palomar Observatory - European Southern Observatory Atlas of the Northern Sky*.

"We are delighted that ESO will be copying and distributing the results of the Palomar Sky Survey", says Robert J. Brucato, assistant director of Palomar Observatory. "ESO has considerable experience from their work on the southern sky surveys conducted by ESO and by the United Kingdom Schmidt Telescope in Australia and the results were excellent. We had been planning on doing the copying and distributing at Caltech, but we decided to have the work done at ESO in the interest of making high-quality copies available to the astronomical community at the minimum price possible".

The photographic work at ESO will be carried out by a team of experienced photographers. The laboratory employs highly specialized techniques, many of

which were invented at ESO, and which guarantee a minimal loss of information in the copying process. The laboratory staff has more than 15 years of practice with survey and atlas work in the southern sky.

The multi-million dollar Palomar Observatory Sky Survey is funded by grants from the Eastman Kodak Company, the National Geographic Society, the Samuel Oschin Foundation, and the Alfred Sloan Foundation, with additional funding from NASA and the National Science Foundation. Begun in 1986, the survey is scheduled for completion in the mid-1990s. ESO expects to termi-

nate the copying a few years later, having then distributed the entire atlas to astronomical institutes all over the world.

Caltech took its first step in the business of sky surveys in 1948, when Institute astronomers and technicians began the eight-year task of mapping the northern sky for the first Palomar Sky Survey. This proved to be one of the most important developments in 20th century astronomy, because it provided astronomers with an unprecedented wealth of information about the heavens. ESO carried out similar surveys of the southern sky after the erec-

First Announcement

A workshop organized by ESO on

RAPID VARIABILITY OF OB-STARS: NATURE AND DIAGNOSTIC VALUE

will be held from 15 to 17 October 1990 at ESO, Garching, FRG.

The purpose of the workshop is to extensively discuss the various models which have been suggested to explain the rapid variability of early-type stars. In addition to the comparison of observations with models, an attempt will be made to assess the impact, if any, of the variability on the general understanding of OB stars.

Topics include: Observations of O, B, and Be stars - Photometry - Line profiles - Nonradial pulsation - Star spots - Circumstellar structures - Atmospheric diagnostics - Transient phenomena - Mass loss.

The Scientific Organizing Committee consists of H. Ando, D. Baade (chair), C. T. Bolton, H. Henrichs, and L. B. Lucy.

For further information, please write to Dietrich Baade, ESO, Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2, D-8046 Garching bei München, or send e-mail to ESOMC1::OBSTARS (SPAN), or OBSTARS@DGAESO51 (EARN/Bitnet), or PSI%026245890024::OBSTARS (X25).