

Sharing Time on the ESO 3.6-m and the CTIO 4-m Blanco Telescopes

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In order to make more efficient use of the astronomical observing potential of our two institutions, as well as to foster closer co-operation, ESO and CTIO are beginning an experiment to exchange 4m-class telescope time.

The exchange will start with the next proposal period (ESO Period 58, CTIO, 2nd semester 1996). The instrument available for use of the European community on the CTIO 4-m telescope is their Infrared Spectrograph (IRS). This very efficient instrument will provide our user community with spectrographic capabilities in the 1 to 5 micron range certainly not available during the upcoming NTT "big-bang". Only when both SOFI at the NTT and ISAAC at the VLT come on board will we be able to offer equal or superior performances in that domain. A brief outline of the performance of the IRS follows. Prospective users are encouraged to refer to the documentation on the CTIO WWW pages for more details (www.ctio.noao.edu/ftp/pub/manuals/irs/irs.html).

Users from the CTIO community have asked for access to ADONIS, TIMMI and EFOSC at the 3.6-m telescope. We have tentatively agreed to "swap" 12 nights per semester, and envision this initial attempt to run for 3 semesters. The exact number of nights will be determined by scientific merit and proposal pressure.

Proposers from the ESO community who wish to observe at CTIO with IRS should submit a proposal to ESO on our normal telescope request form, for the normal ESO proposal deadline of March 31 and September 30, but indicate clearly on the front page that observations at CTIO are requested. Proposals will be rated by the ESO OPC based on scientific merit, and then passed to the CTIO scheduler, and vice versa. Input to the OPC from the appropriate technical reviewers of the instrument host institution will be sought.

Note in the next proposals due March 31, 1996 that, because of differences between semesters, the time being sought for the CTIO infrared spectrometer will be August 1, 1996 – January 31, 1997. CTIO use of the ESO 3.6-m instruments will occur in the October

1, 1996 – March 31, 1997 period 58.

On the ESO side, the idea of initiating a telescope time exchange with another southern Observatory came from the ESO User's Committee last May. This was driven by the unfortunate timing of the NTT big-bang, which puts most of our infrared capability out of use, almost exactly when the bulk of ISO data appear. We think that this exchange will enhance European capability to make the best scientific use of these invaluable data, and we hope that oversubscription for "CTIO" time will be large.

IRS: 1 to 5 micron infrared spectrometer. Uses a 256×256 SBRC array, with a $40 e^-$ r.o.n. and about $7e^-$ /sec. dark current. Full well is $50,000 e^-$. Scale on the detector is 0.32 arcsec. per pixel. Maximum slit length is 16 arcsec. The instrument is cooled at 35 K; its configuration (entrance mirror, slit, filter, grating tilt) is fully computer controlled. A TV camera allows to directly view the field being observed (limiting mag. 19 during full Moon). Two gratings (of a total of 5 available) are mounted side by side. 2 px spectral resolution may vary from 400 to 10,000.

ESO Astrophysics Symposia Proceedings

The proceedings of the following ESO Astrophysics Symposia are available from Springer.

- The Light Element Abundances
- Science with the VLT
- The Bottom of the Main Sequence and Beyond
- QSO Absorption Lines

ESO has negotiated an attractive price for these proceedings. They may be ordered directly from books stores or through Springer.

FAX: (49 30) 8201 301
e-mail: orders@springer.de
Post: Springer-Verlag, P.O. Box 311340, D-10543 Berlin

ESO Studentship Programme

The European Southern Observatory has positions available for 12 research students. Six of these positions are at the ESO Headquarters in Garching, and the other six are at the Observatory in Santiago and La Silla, Chile. Students normally stay approximately two years, so that each year a total of 6 students (3 at each location) may be accepted. These positions are available to students enrolled in a Ph. D. (or equivalent) programme in the ESO member states and exceptionally at a university outside the ESO member states.

**Note that the closing date for applications is
June 15, 1996.**

Potential candidates, or their supervisors should obtain the detailed information about the programme by requesting the brochure and application form from the

European Southern Observatory
Studentship Programme
Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2
D-85748 Garching bei München, Germany

The brochure describes the prerequisites for participation in the programme, as well as the research interests of staff members who might work with the students and who would act as the local supervisors.