

ESO, the European Southern Observatory, was created in 1962 to . . . establish and operate an astronomical observatory in the southern hemisphere, equipped with powerful instruments, with the aim of furthering and organising collaboration in astronomy . . . It is supported by eight countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. It operates the La Silla observatory in the Atacama desert, 600 km north of Santiago de Chile, at 2,400 m altitude, where fourteen optical telescopes with diameters up to 3.6 m and a 15-m sub-millimetre radio telescope (SEST) are now in operation. The 3.5-m New Technology Telescope (NTT) became operational in 1990, and a giant telescope (VLT = Very Large Telescope), consisting of four 8-m telescopes (equivalent aperture = 16 m) is under construction. It is being erected on Paranal, a 2,600 m high mountain in northern Chile, approximately 130 km south of Antofagasta. Eight hundred scientists make proposals each year for the use of the telescopes at La Silla. The ESO Headquarters are located in Garching, near Munich, Germany. It is the scientific, technical and administrative centre of ESO where technical development programmes are carried out to provide the La Silla observatory with the most advanced instruments. There are also extensive facilities which enable the scientists to analyse their data. In Europe ESO employs about 200 international Staff members, Fellows and Associates; at La Silla about 50 and, in addition, 150 local Staff members.

The ESO MESSENGER is published four times a year: normally in March, June, September and December. ESO also publishes conference proceedings preprints, technical notes and other material connected to its activities. Press Releases inform the media about particular events. For further information, contact the ESO Information Service at the following address:

EUROPEAN  
SOUTHERN OBSERVATORY  
Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2  
D-85748 Garching bei München  
Germany  
Tel. (089) 320 06-0  
Telex 5-28282-0 eo d  
Telefax (089) 3202362  
ips@eso.org (internet)  
ESO::IPS (decnet)

The ESO Messenger:  
Editor: Marie-Hélène Demoulin  
Technical editor: Kurt Kjär

Printed by  
Druckbetriebe Lettner KG  
Georgenstr. 84  
D-80799 München, Germany

ISSN 0722-6691

## CHILE

SCOBBIIE, James (GB), Tel. Software Scientist  
BREWER, James (GB), Fellow  
MARTIN Pierre (CDN), NTT Fellow  
BRILLANT, Stephane (F), Student  
METANOMSKI, Agnés (F), Student  
CORPORON, Patrice (F), Coopérant

GOUDFROOIJ, Paul (NL), Fellow  
HUIZINGA, Edwin (NL), Fellow  
PATIG né Kissler, Markus (D), Student

## CHILE

SWINNEN, Eric (B), Sr. Techn. Engineer

## Local Staff Chile

### ARRIVALS

NAVARRETE, Pablo (RCH), Elect. Technician  
AMESTICA, Rodrigo (RCH), Software Engineer

### DEPARTURES

FELIS, Mila (RCH), Secretary  
LEON, José (RCH), Informatic Engineer  
ROSENFELD, Walter (RCH), Electronic

### DEPARTURES

#### EUROPE

ROTH-AHRA, Margarete (A), Adm. Employee  
FENDT, Michael (D), Engineer (Systems)  
MINNITI, Dante (RA), Fellow  
NAUMANN, Michael (D), Paid Associate

## Contents

R. Giacconi: Report from the Council Meeting .....	1
<b>TELESCOPES AND INSTRUMENTATION</b>	
M. Tarenghi: VLT News .....	2
J. Beletic: The Plan for Optical Detectors at ESO .....	4
A. Wallander et al.: Pointing and Tracking the NTT with the "VLT Control System" .....	7
<b>NEWS FROM THE NTT:</b> J. Spyromilio .....	10
<b>THE LA SILLA NEWS PAGE</b>	
S. Guisard: Image Quality of the 3.6-m Telescope .....	11
S. Benetti: About the Photometric Stability of EFOSC1 .....	12
Unusual View of VLT Site .....	13
<b>SCIENCE WITH THE VLT/VLTI</b>	
ISAC – Interferometry Science Advisory Committee: A New Start for the VLTI ..	14
<b>SCIENCE WITH LARGE MILLIMETRE ARRAYS</b>	
P.A. Shaver: Science with Large Millimetre Arrays – A Summary of the ESO-IRAM-NFRA-Onsala Workshop .....	22
<b>REPORTS FROM OBSERVERS</b>	
H. Röttgering, G. Miley and R. van Ojik: Giant Gas Halos in Radio Galaxies: A Unique Probe of the Early Universe .....	26
C. Tinney, G. da Costa and H. Zinnecker: Proper Motions of Galaxies – the Reference Frame .....	29
G. Garay, I. Köhnenkamp and L.F. Rodríguez: A Multiline Molecular Study of the Highly Collimated Bipolar Outflow Sandqvist 136 .....	31
E.P. Nasuti, R. Mignani, P.A. Caraveo and G.F. Bignami: On the Optical Emission of the Crab Pulsar .....	37
M. Combes, L. Vapillon, E. Gendron, A. Coustenis and O. Lai: 2-Micron Images of Titan by Means of Adaptive Optics .....	40
W. Brandner, T. Lehmann and H. Zinnecker: Simultaneous Optical Speckle and ADONIS Imaging of the 126 mas Herbig Ae/Be Binary Star NX Puppis .....	43
<b>OTHER ASTRONOMICAL NEWS</b>	
J.R. Walsh: A World Wide Web Tool for Spectrophotometric Standard Stars .....	46
J. Andersen: Planning for La Silla in the VLT Era: What Came Out? .....	48
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	
G. Monnet: Sharing Time on the ESO 3.6-m and the CTIO 4-m Blanco Telescopes .....	50
ESO Astrophysics Symposia Proceedings .....	50
ESO Studentship Programme .....	50
First Announcement of an ESO/IAC Workshop on "Quasar Hosts" .....	51
Brunella Monsignorini Fossi .....	51
New ESO Proceedings Available .....	51
New Scientific Preprints .....	51
Staff Movements .....	51