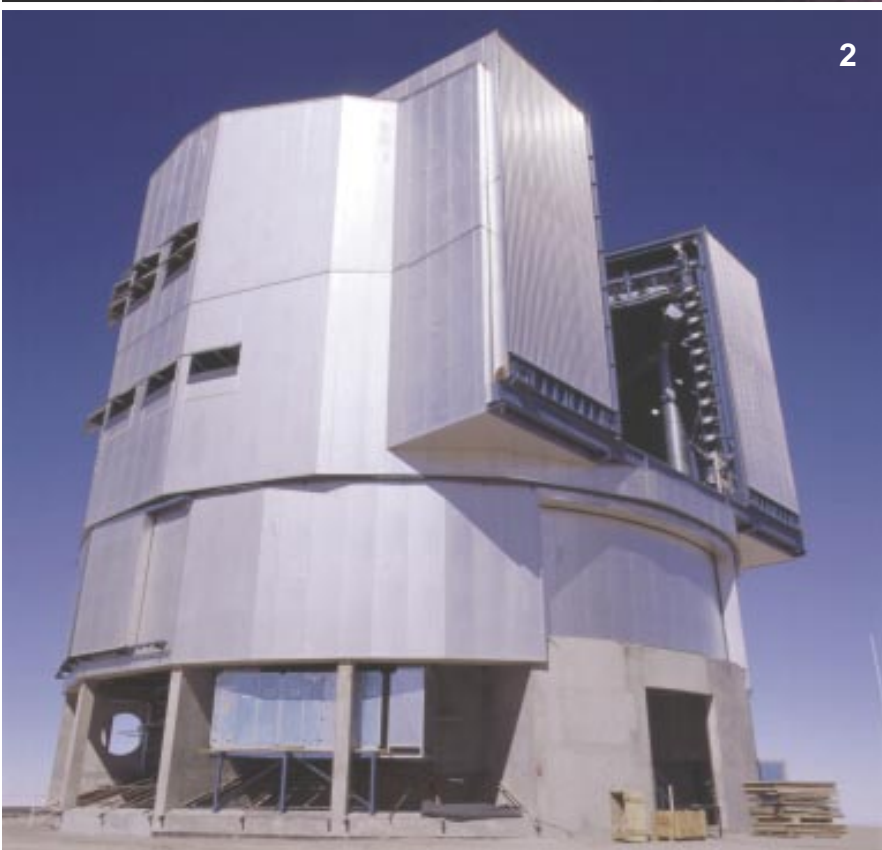


Paranal, December 1996

M. TARENGHI, ESO

1



2

Figure 1: The enclosures for telescopes 1, 2 and 3 show the completion of the external cladding and the series of openings (louvers and doors) that were designed in the enclosure to be able to control ventilation and minimise dome seeing. The excavations in the foreground are for the foundations of one of the tracks that will be used by the auxiliary telescopes for the VLTI.

Figure 2: The enclosure of UT1 is shown in this picture as it will be used during observation. The slits and louvers are open, the lower box in the lower part is one of the air conditioning/air treatment units. Above the small door in the concrete structure one can see the large sliding door 10 metre wide that will be used to integrate the 8.2 m diameter mirror with its cell.

Figure 3: This aerial picture taken early in the morning from the west side shows clearly the different phases of erection of



the four enclosures and the steel frame of the control building. In addition, it is possible to see the roof of the delay-line tunnel and the laboratory for interferometry located in the middle of the flat summit area.

Figure 4: A view of the interior of enclosure No. 1 during functional tests of the rotation of the upper part. The long exposure time used to take this picture shows clearly the movement of the rotating part. Visible above the electronic cabinets controlling the complex functions of the enclosure are some of the ducts and vents of the air conditioning system which are used during the day to control the temperature of the telescope.

Figure 5: This aerial view shows the three camps utilised by ESO and the contractors in this phase of construction. To the far right is the old ESO camp. In the centre is the camp erected by Skanska-Belfi and now used by SOIMI and ESO. At the far left is the initial SOIMI camp. Clearly visible in the background are the excavations for the construction of the Mirror Maintenance Building, the power generation building, warehouse and all the other structures necessary for the operation of the observatory.

(Photographer: H.-H. Heyer)

