

The Questionnaire Survey for “La Silla 2000+”

B. NORDSTRÖM, Chair, ESO Users Committee

First, I wish to thank the many colleagues who have spent time and effort on answering the “Questionnaire on the Future of the La Silla Facilities 1999–2006”. I am happy to report that we received 254 answers, about twice as many as four years ago, when a similar survey was initiated. This is a very gratifying response, which testifies to the great interest in the future of La Silla in the community and lends important support to the recommendations we will prepare.

From the diagrams below you can see the distribution in age and nationality of those who contributed answers to the questionnaire. It is particularly noteworthy and encouraging that so many young colleagues submitted replies. There is also a well-balanced representation of answers from all Member States, Chile, and the ESO staff.

We are well aware that some people had difficulties submitting the questionnaire through the ESO Web server and apologise to those who did not succeed. To compensate for this, an email version of the form was provided and used by some.

A joint STC/UC/ESO Working Group will prepare a summary report and a set

of recommendations, which will be presented to the Director General and eventually to the ESO Council. This WG consists of G. Burki, A. M. Lagrange, S. Ortolani, J. Melnick, and G. Monnet and is chaired by the writer.

The WG had its first meeting on February 4, 1999, and is now hard at work to take into consideration all the constructive and thoughtful comments about

future instrumentation and science to be conducted at La Silla.

On behalf of the WG, I wish to thank all the colleagues who submitted replies, as well as the ESO REMEDY team who have been very helpful during the planning, execution, and analysis of the survey.

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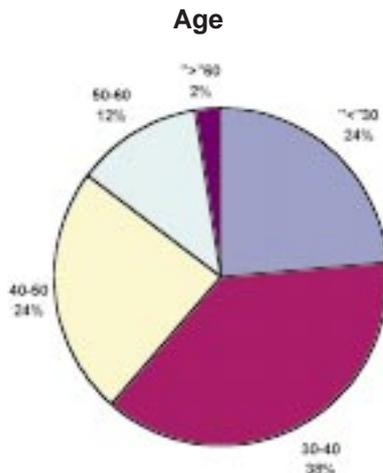


Figure 1: Distribution of ages.

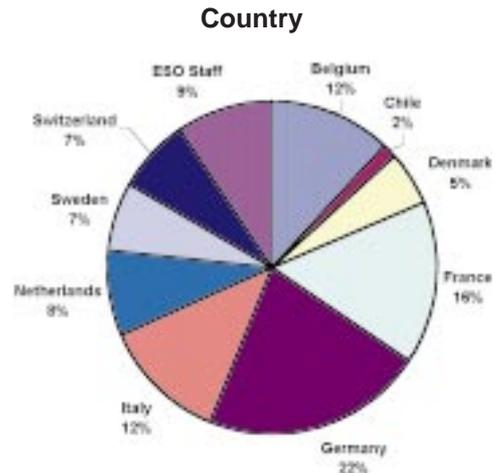


Figure 2: Distribution of nationalities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Catherine Cesarsky – ESO’s Next Director General

The ESO Council has appointed Dr. Catherine Cesarsky as Director General for a five-year period, succeeding Professor Riccardo Giacconi, whose term ends this year. Dr. Cesarsky will take up her duties on September 1, 1999, at the ESO Headquarters in Garching (Germany).

Dr. Cesarsky was born in France in 1943. She received a degree in Physical Sciences at the University of Buenos Aires and graduated with a PhD in Astronomy in 1971 from Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass., USA). Afterwards she worked at the California Institute of Technology (CALTECH).

In 1974, she became a staff member of the Service d’Astrophysique (SAp), Direction des Sciences de la Matière (DSM), Commissariat à l’Energie Atomique (CEA) (France). She headed the theoretical group of the SAp (1978–1985), was Head of SAp (1985–1993) and has been Director of DSM since 1994. The DSM encompasses, at the CEA, activities of basic research in physics, chemistry, astrophysics and earth sciences and comprises about 3000 scientists, engineers, technicians, etc.

Dr. Cesarsky is known for her successful research activities in several central areas of modern astrophysics. The first part of her career was devoted to the high-energy domain. This has involved studies of the propagation and composition of galactic cosmic rays, of matter and fields in the diffuse interstellar medium, as well as the acceleration of particles in astrophysical shocks, e.g. in connection with supernovae.

She then turned to infrared astronomy. She is the Principal Investigator of the ISOCAM camera onboard the Infrared Space Observatory (ISO) of the European Space Agency (ESA) and, as such, she leads the ISOCAM central programme. It studies, in a co-ordinated way, the infrared emission from a variety of galactic and extragalactic sources and is yielding new and exciting results on star formation and galactic evolution.

Dr. Cesarsky received the COSPAR (Committee on Space Research) Space Science Award in 1998.

She is a member of many national and international associations and organisations within physics, astrophysics and space sciences, and of related working groups and committees. She has assumed several chairs and presidencies in these, e.g., as Vice-President of the ESO Council and of the European Astronomical Society (EAS), and Chairperson of ESO’s Observing Programmes Committee. She is Vice-President of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) since 1997. She has also been Editor-in-Chief of the European journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*.

She is married and has two children.

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