“VLT beyond 2030” Conference Draft Agenda

26-30 Jan 2026, Garching

contributed talks: 12+3 min
invited talks: 25+5 min
discussion sessions: 1 hr

***** Monday 26 January *****

1330-1530:

Celine Peroux, Antoine Merand, Martyna Chruslinska - Welcome & Introduction

Jarle Brinchmann - ESO facilities & science landscape

Invited duo:

Gaitee Hussain - Space facilities & science landscape

Silvia Piranomonte - Multi-frequency facilities & science landscape

TBD - Sustainability challenges

1530-1600: COFFEE

1600-1730:

Paulo Garcia - Technology and Astronomy: Rethinking ESO’s Model for the 2030s

Roland Walter - Nano to pico degree optical astronomy: in quantum physics we trust!

Discussion

***** Tuesday 27 January *****

900-1030:

Nuno Morujao - Towards Unified Vibration Control for the VLTI: Multi-Sensor Data Fusion as a Path Beyond GRAVITY+

Taro Shimizu - Light at the Horizon: Black Holes in High Definition with the VLT and VLTI

Invited duo:

Kyriaki Minoglou - Detectors future

Antonio de Ugarte Postigo - Gravitational waves & transient events

1030-1100: COFFEE

1100-1230:

Michael Andersen - Follow-up of transients in the 2030'ss

Naidu Bezawada - Evaluating detector technologies for astronomy beyond 2030

Discussion

1230-1400: LUNCH

1400-1530:

Invited duo:

Deborah Lokhorst - Low surf brightness & short wavelength facilities

Ryan Cooke - Extragalactic science & cosmology

Christian Clear - Atomic Data for the Next Generation of Astrophysical Spectroscopy

Lawrence Bissell - Advancing Hollow Cathode Lamp Calibrations for Next-Generation Spectrographs

1530-1600: COFFEE

1600-1730:

Francesco Pepe - Is there any need for Laser-Frequency Comb at the VLT beyond 2030?

Oliver Pfuhl - Reaching cm/s radial velocity accuracy with the next generation of Astrocombs

Discussion

***** Wednesday 28 January *****

900-1030:

Enrichetta Iodice - Low-Surface Brightness research in the Next Era of Astronomy

Dinko Milakovic - Cosmology with VLT spectrographs in 2030s

Invited duo:

Rebecca Bernstein- Wide-field/multiplex/integral-field spectroscopy

Jorryt Matthee - Galaxy formation and evolution

1030-1100: COFFEE

1100-1230:

Stephen Watson - Mechanical fibre switch development at the UK ATC

Jean-Paul Kneib - Massive Spectroscopy in Dense Environment - from emerging technologies to new science

Discussion

1230-1400: LUNCH

1400-1530:

Nicolas Bouche - The need for a wide-field IFU at 1 micron

Angela Adamo - Data Analysis Software in the 2030s for panoramic Integral Field Spectrographs

Michael Ireland - Completing the VLT/I in the LGS Era: The case for at least 4 lasers on each UT

Noelia Martinez - Towards Full-Sky Adaptive Optics with Laser Guide Stars: Overview of the ANU Program on LGS Tip-Tilt

Felipe Pedreros - Advanced laser guide stars for future AO facilities

Mathias Nowak- Science drivers for a shorter wavelength, high-sensitivity 3rd-generation facility instrument

1530-1600: COFFEE

1600-1730:

Invited duo:

Julia Seidel- Planetary systems/exoplanets

Sebastiaan Haffert- High-angular resolution facilities

Francois Bouchy - K-band for NIRPS

Suri Rukdee - Vipa-based Instrument for Oxygen Loaded Atmospheres (VIOLA) for VLT2030 and beyond

***** Thursday 29 January *****

900-1030:

Leonardo Testi - MICHELANGELO: a mid-infrared high dispersion spectrograph dedicated to exoplanet atmospheres studies

Xavier Dumusque - A high-resolution, ultra-stable NIR spectrograph for the VLT

Discussion

1030-1100: COFFEE

1100-1230:

Christophe Lovis - Pioneering exoplanet reflected-light spectroscopy with RISTRETTO: a pathfinder for ANDES and PCS

Jalo Nousiainen - XAO performance with an Orbiting Configurable Artificial Star

Discussion

1230-1400: LUNCH

1400-1530:

Invited duo:

Ylva Gotberg - Stars & Stellar Evolution

Stefan Kraus - multiplexing/spectral resolution, polarimetry

Sofia Randlich - HRMOS: a very high-resolution, multi-object spectrograph for the VLT

Marco Riva - HRMOS: Instrument architecture and main features

1530-1600: COFFEE

1600-1730:

Emma Fernandez-Alvar - Probing Neutron-Capture Nucleosynthesis in the Early Galaxy with HRMOS

Laura Magrini - Filling the Gap: High-Resolution, Multi-Object Spectroscopy for the Local and Distant Universe

Discussion

***** Friday 30 January *****

900-1030:

Camilla Danielsky - The role of HRMOS to the comprehension of planetary systems across time and space

Pascal Petit - VIPER: a Visible and Infrared spectroPolarimetER for the VLT

Elsa Huby - From Large Telescopes to Tiny Chips: Astrophotonic Perspectives for the VLT/I

Simon Ellis - Astrophotonics: recent and future developments

Pierre Kervella - Perspectives for the VLT Interferometer in stellar astrophysics

Sylvestre Lacour - The VLTI: a unique facility for exoplanet detection

1030-1100: COFFEE

1100-1230:

Discussion: VLTI (6x5-min talks)

Guillaume Bourdarot - Demonstrating the combination of AT-UT baselines: VLTI as a true coherent array

Xavier Haubois - STELLIM: Fast Interferometric Imaging of Stellar Surfaces

Romain Petrov - VLTI extensions and limiting sensitivity: how to win on both counts

Stefan Kraus - Perspectives for the Asgard Visitor Instrument Suite for VLTI in the 2030s

Bruno Lopez - MATISSE and mid-infrared interferometry at the VLTI post-2030

Andreas Quirrenbach - Astrophysics at high spectral and spatial resolution with the VLTI

Celine Peroux, Antoine Merand, Martyna Chruslinska - Conclusion and Next steps (White Papers call)

1230-1400: LUNCH & Departure