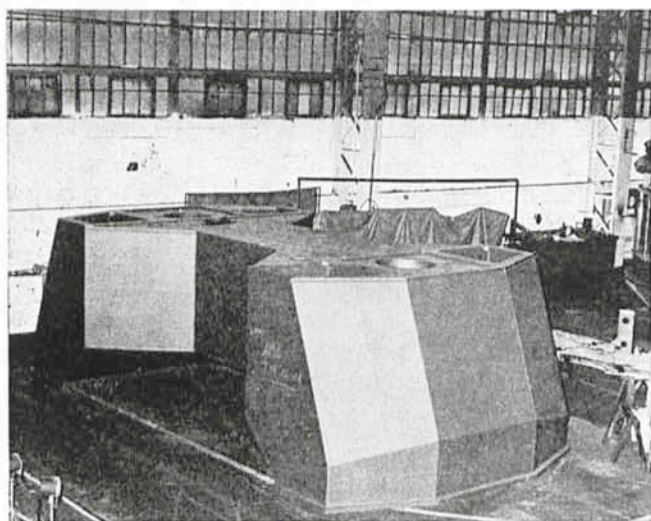


3.6 m Telescope Headed for Testing and Erection

The big telescope moves on towards its big day in 1976. In the Creusot-Loire plant at Saint-Chamond, near Grenoble, where a large part of the work has been done, all the major components have now been welded and stress released. Machining and the manufacture of all the smaller parts will be completed by the summer of 1974. Then, after testing of some 20 sub-assemblies, the assembly of the whole telescope will begin and it will be completed by January, 1975. A six-month period is allotted for the telescope tests and adjustment of the drives. The alignment procedures will also be determined during this time.



The cross-beam linking the two fork prongs to the polar axis is shown here at the stage following welding and before machining at the Creusot-Loire plant at Saint-Chamond. This is one of the larger sections to be transported, being 4 m wide, 2.4 m high and weighing 16,000 kg.

In the latter half of 1975 the telescope will be dismantled and packed for transport to Chile. All components, including the aluminizing plant, will go in the same ship. They will be unloaded at Huasco, a small port some 150 km north of La Silla. From there the convoy heads straight for the mountain. The firm of Creusot-Loire will then put the whole telescope together within about three months.

After the mechanical tests, the mirrors will be aluminized and installed for the first time in the telescope. This event, initiating the final steps towards making the big telescope operational, is scheduled for 1976.

W. Richter

ESO/Hamburg Goes Over to Computer

At the Director-General's Office, the Finance Service switched over to computer on the first day of 1974. The firm selected to carry out the work was Treuarbeit AG, Hamburg, and it used a Honeywell Bull 415 computer. The first tryout, in December, 1973, lasted one week and gave satisfactory results.

An existing programme has been adjusted to the current requirements of ESO book-keeping; the future

needs of the Organization are also taken into account. For the Hamburg Administration this means that the time-lag in operations is now reduced from one month to one week and there will be more time for non-routine work.

However, the manual accounting system was continued until March 31 to permit regular checks on the computer output.

Under the previous system, the ESO / Chile Administration received a single debit note giving the total figure and then made the break-down. This note is now replaced by a complete and detailed specification of expenditure in Hamburg, charged against their budget by budget item.

Early in 1974, definite proposals were made concerning partial implementation of the ESO / Chile accounting in the EDP programme.

P. H. Huijmans

Wilson Completes Optics Study

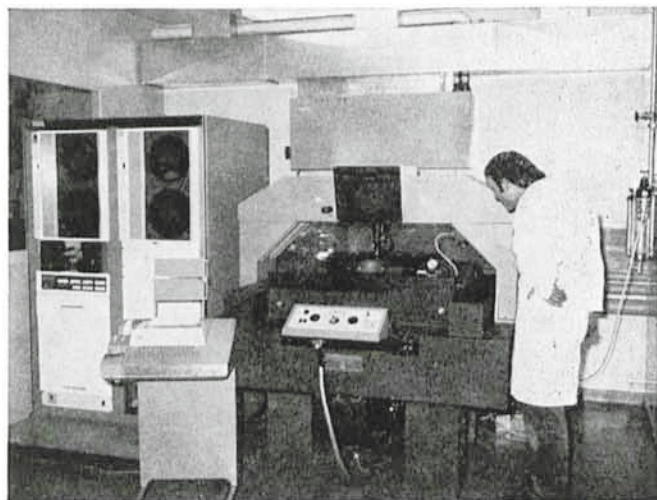
ESO recently was able to make some return for the technical aid given by CERN when Dr. Raymond Wilson, towards the end of 1973, completed a study on the optics of scintillator counters for the 300 GeV experimental area.

Dr. Wilson, who is British, took his doctorate at the Imperial College and came to ESO from Zeiss of Oberkochen in September, 1972. Acknowledged as one of the foremost experts in optical design, he has given many lectures on optics and instrumentation at international conferences, particularly at the last two ESO / CERN conferences. With the linguistic attainments added during his twelve years in Germany he can be regarded as the complete European.

Dr. Wilson is chairman of the Geneva committee of the ESO Staff Association.

ESO Pioneers with S-3000 Measuring Machine

An OPTRONICS S-3000 SPECSCAN measuring machine has recently been installed at the ESO Sky Atlas Laboratory in Geneva where it is undergoing installation tests.



ESO S-3000 measuring machine