



• La Silla  
• La Serena  
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## 3.6 m Telescope Receives First Visiting Astronomers

The 3.6 m telescope is now ready to receive the first visiting astronomers. For most astronomers in Europe, this will be the first time they have access to a large telescope and it is therefore of some interest to learn how European astronomers expect to make use of their new instrument.

Preliminary information is available from the programme proposals that were received by the Observing Programmes Committee by April 15, 1977, soliciting observing time during period 20, from October 1, 1977 to April 1, 1978.

A total of 49 applicants submitted 54 programmes, of which 26 could be accepted within the time available (see p. 9). These programmes can be divided as follows (number of accepted programmes in parentheses):

- 1 (1) Solar system
- 16 (7) Milky Way (among these 9 for stars, 4 for star clusters, 2 for interstellar matter, 1 for galactic structure)
- 11.5 (3) Magellanic Clouds
  - 1 (1) Sculptor dwarf galaxy
- 21 (12) Other galaxies
- 3.5 (2) Quasars.

The lack of large telescopes in Europe has traditionally restricted European investigations of distant objects like quasars and galaxies, but these figures clearly show that the interest in doing extragalactic research with the 3.6 m telescope is strong among European astronomers. The quantitative balance between galactic and extragalactic proposals is worth noticing as well as the continuation of research in the Magellanic Clouds, since long underway with the ESO 1 m, 1.52 m and Schmidt telescopes.

The accepted programmes span a wide range of subjects, from "The Iapetus eclipse on January 8, 1978" (Dr. A. Brahic, Paris) to "Spectroscopy of variable quasars" (Dr. J. P. Swings, Liège). In addition to the standard ESO equipment for photometry and spectroscopy, special equipment will be used by Drs. Y. Georgelin and G. Comte (Marseille) for "H II regions and kinematics of southern galaxies" and Drs. G. Schultz and E. Kreysa (Bonn) for "Submillimetre and IR investigations of radio sources".

### ESO's Fifteenth Anniversary (1962–1977)

On October 5, 1977, ESO celebrates its fifteenth anniversary. As the first international organization for astronomy in Europe, ESO was born in October 1962 when representatives of five of the present six member states signed the ESO Convention in Paris. Ratification followed a year later and the La Silla site was chosen in 1964 where astronomical observations started in 1968 with the 1 m photometric telescope. Eight other telescopes have been added since.

The creation of ESO has had a large impact on European astronomy and the influence of the organization is increasingly being felt—also beyond the boundaries of the member states.

### PROFILE OF A VISITOR'S PROGRAMME:

## The Bright Cloud B in Sagittarius

*A detailed study of stars in the direction of the centre of the Milky Way is underway at the Observatoire de Lyon in France by Dr. A. Terzan and his collaborators. Important material has been obtained with the ESO telescopes during the past years. Dr. Terzan outlines his programme:*

A photometric study in R ( $\lambda_{\text{eff}} \sim 6400 \text{ \AA}$ ) and IR ( $\lambda_{\text{eff}} \sim 8100 \text{ \AA}$ ) of certain regions in the bright stellar cloud B in Sagittarius has been undertaken by the Lyon Observatory since