

ered packages, ESO-MIDAS, Eclipse (for ISAAC and other data), IDL (although a license must be bought to allow full operation, not just the demo mode), GILDAS, Difmap, Terapix tools including SExtractor, image display programmes such as Skycat, ds9, SAOimage, ximtool, etc, and many other things. A full list is available at <http://www.eso.org/scisoft>. Anyone planning observing at an ESO telescope in Chile can expect to find this collection on site for their immediate off-line data analysis. The contents are biased towards the needs of the ESO optical and near-IR communities so, for example, there is no X-ray software included.

Although some ESO software items (ESO-MIDAS, Eclipse and Skycat for example) are included in Scisoft, most are not as they typically are linked to other deadlines such as proposal submission and maintained and supported independently. These items should be obtained via the ESO web pages as at present.

Scisoft releases occur at approximately six-monthly intervals and there have so far been two, in June and November 2000. The next one will be in July 2001. Originally, this collection was just intended for internal ESO use but in spring 2001 it was decided to also allow external distribution without support.

Although now available to external users, it is intended that the Scisoft collection will remain focused on the ESO internal needs and will develop accordingly. Nevertheless, we are interested in hearing comments from the external community.

The external ("EXPORT") version lacks some of the items in the internal version because of copyright questions but is otherwise close to identical. Anyone wishing to request a copy is encouraged to send their postal address and the name of the version they would like to receive (Linux, Solaris or HP-UX) to "scisoft_request@eso.org" and we will post them a CD (see picture at right of title).

LATEST NEWS

ESO High-Level Presentation in Porto

C. MADSEN, ESO

In connection with the meeting of the ESO Council in Porto on June 18–19, ESO invited a number of representatives from important groups in Portuguese society, including academia, industry, politics and the media for a presentation at the Centre for Astrophysics of the University of Porto (CAUP). At the meeting, presentations were given by the Portuguese Minister for Science and Technology, Prof. J.M. Gago, the ESO Council President, Dr. Arno Freytag, the Director General of ESO, Dr. Cathrine Cesarsky, Prof. Teresa Lago, Head of CAUP and Portuguese delegate to the ESO Council, and finally Dr. João Alves, ESO. This was followed by a



live video conference with Paranal, where Damien Hutsemékers discussed current observations done with the VLT telescope ANTU. A cocktail and a short planetarium show completed the event, which also marked ESO's first public appearance in Portugal since the formal accession of this country to ESO. ESO will continue its high-level presentations in its member states with the next event planned to take place in Brussels in November this year, at the time of the Belgian EU Presidency.

Prof. Gago's speech about the development of science in Portugal and the importance of international collaboration drew great applause among the invited guests.