

ESO, the European Southern Observatory, was created in 1962 to "... establish and operate an astronomical observatory in the southern hemisphere, equipped with powerful instruments, with the aim of furthering and organising collaboration in astronomy ..." It is supported by nine countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland. ESO operates at two sites. It operates the La Silla observatory in the Atacama desert, 600 km north of Santiago de Chile, at 2,400 m altitude, where several optical telescopes with diameters up to 3.6 m and a 15-m submillimetre radio telescope (SEST) are now in operation. In addition, ESO is in the process of building the Very Large Telescope (VLT) on Paranal, a 2,600 m high mountain approximately 130 km south of Antofagasta, in the driest part of the Atacama desert. The VLT consists of four 8.2-metre and three 1.8-metre telescopes. These telescopes can also be used in combination as a giant interferometer (VLTI). The first two 8.2-metre telescopes (called ANTU and KUEYEN) are in regular operation, and the other two will follow soon. Over 1200 proposals are made each year for the use of the ESO telescopes. The ESO Headquarters are located in Garching, near Munich, Germany. This is the scientific, technical and administrative centre of ESO where technical development programmes are carried out to provide the La Silla and Paranal observatories with the most advanced instruments. There are also extensive astronomical data facilities. In Europe ESO employs about 200 international staff members, Fellows and Associates; in Chile about 70 and, in addition, about 130 local staff members.

The ESO MESSENGER is published four times a year: normally in March, June, September and December. ESO also publishes Conference Proceedings, Preprints, Technical Notes and other material connected to its activities. Press Releases inform the media about particular events. For further information, contact the ESO Education and Public Relations Department at the following address:

EUROPEAN  
SOUTHERN OBSERVATORY  
Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2  
D-85748 Garching bei München  
Germany  
Tel. (089) 320 06-0  
Telefax (089) 3202362  
ips@eso.org (internet)  
URL: <http://www.eso.org>  
<http://www.eso.org/gen-fac/pubs/messenger/>

The ESO Messenger:  
Editor: Marie-Hélène Demoulin  
Technical editor: Kurt Kjær

Printed by  
J. Gotteswinter GmbH  
Buch- und Offsetdruck  
Joseph-Dollinger-Bogen 22  
D-80807 München  
Germany

ISSN 0722-6691

1418. H. Jerjen and M. Rejkuba: Tip of the Red Giant Branch Distance for the Sculptor Group Dwarf ESO 540-032. *A&A*.
1419. F. Poli, N. Menci, E. Giallongo, A. Fontana, S. Cristiani, S. D'Odorico: The Evolution of the Luminosity Function in Deep Fields: A Comparison with CDM Models. *ApJ Letters*.
1420. J.U. Fynbo et al.: Detection of the Optical Afterglow of GRB 000630: Implications for Dark Bursts. *A&A*.
1421. E. Le Floch, I.F. Mirabel, O. Laurent, V. Charmandaris, P. Gallais, M. Sauvage, L. Vigroux, and C. Cesarsky: Mid-Infrared Observations of NGC 1068 with the Infrared Space Observatory. *A&A*.
1422. J.U. Fynbo, P. Møller and B. Thomsen: Deep Imaging of Q2112+059: A Bright Host Galaxy but no DLA Absorber. *A&A*.
1423. F. Comerón and J. Torra: Near-Infrared Imaging of Compact HII Regions in Cygnus. *A&A*.
1424. F. Patat and G. Carraro: Star Clusterings in the Carina Complex: *U BV RI* Photometry of Bochum 9, 10 and 11. *MNRAS*.
1425. T.-S. Kim, S. Cristiani and S. D'Odorico: The Ly $\alpha$  Forest at  $1.5 < z < 4$ . *A&A*.
1426. P. Saracco, E. Giallongo, S. Cristiani, S. D'Odorico, A. Fontana, A. Iovino, F. Poli, E. Vanzella: Deep Near-IR Observations of the Chandra Deep Field and of the HDF South. *A&A*.
1427. P. Møller and J.U. Fynbo: Detection of a Redshift 3.04 Filament. *A&A*.
1428. J.U. Fynbo et al.: The Optical Afterglow and Host Galaxy of RGB 000926. *A&A*.
1429. J.U. Fynbo, P. Møller and B. Thomsen: Probing the Faint End of the Galaxy Luminosity Function at  $z = 3$  with Ly $\alpha$  Emission. *A&A*.
1430. G.A. Wade, S. Bagnulo, O. Kochukhov, J.D. Landstreet, N. Piskunov, M.J. Stiff: LTE Spectrum Synthesis in Magnetic Stellar Atmospheres. The Interagreement of three Independent Polarised Radiative Transfer Codes. *A&A*.

## Contents

C. Cesarsky: Successful First Light for the VLT Interferometer . . . . .	1
--	---

### TELESCOPES AND INSTRUMENTATION

A. Glindemann et al.: Light at the End of the Tunnel – First Fringes with the VLT . . . . .	2
F. Paresce: Scientific Objectives of the VLT Interferometer . . . . .	5
H. Jones, E. Pompei and the 2p2 Team: 2p2 Team News . . . . .	7
L. Wisotzki, F. Selman and A. Gilliotte: Commissioning the Spectroscopic Mode of the WFI at the MPG/ESO 2.2-m Telescope at La Silla . . . . .	8
C. Urrutia, T. Paz, E. Robledo, F. Gutierrez, D. Baade, F. Selman, F. Sanchez, J. Brewer and M. Scodreggio: VLT-Style Observing with the Wide Field Imager at the MPG/ESO 2.2-m Telescope at La Silla . . . . .	14
J. Manfroid, F. Selman and H. Jones: Achieving 1% Photometric Accuracy with the ESO Wide Field Imager . . . . .	16
R. Hook: Scisoft – a Collection of Astronomical Software for ESO Users . . . . .	20
<b>LATEST NEWS:</b> C. Madsen: ESO High-Level Presentation in Porto . . . . .	21

### REPORTS FROM OBSERVERS

L. VANZI, L. Hunt and T. Thuan: SOFI and ISAAC Pierce the Obscured Core of SBS 0335-052 . . . . .	22
J.W. Sulentic, M. Calvani and P. Marziani: Eigenvector 1: An H-R Diagram for AGN? . . . . .	25
J.-L. Monin, F. Ménard and N. Peretto: Disk Orientations in PMS Binary Systems Determined Through Polarimetric Imaging With UT1/FORS . . . . .	29
S. Bagnulo, T. Szeifert, G.A. Wade, J.D. Landstreet and G. Mathys: Detecting Magnetic Fields of Upper-Main-Sequence Stars With FORS1 at ANTU . . . . .	32
Colour composite of the spiral galaxy M83 in the visible . . . . .	37

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Preliminary Announcement of an ESO-CERN-ESA Symposium on "Astronomy, Cosmology and Fundamental Physics" . . . . .	38
International Conference on Light Pollution . . . . .	38
ESO Vacancy "Head of Administration" . . . . .	39
Personnel Movements . . . . .	39
Scientific Preprints (April–June 2001) . . . . .	39