

# ESO PRESENTATION IN COPENHAGEN

C. MADSEN AND S. D'ODORICO (ESO)

On November 8, ESO continued its series of presentations in member-states with an event in Copenhagen. So far events have been organised in Belgium, Finland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The purpose of these presentations is to raise the awareness of ESO amongst decision-makers, academia and the media. Over time, the scope and specific focus of the national events have varied, considering the particular circumstances and the wishes of the national hosts, and accordingly, the presentation in Denmark was primarily oriented towards industry. The meeting was initiated by the Royal Danish Consulate General in Munich in conjunction with the Confederation of Danish Industries and the Ministry for Science, Technology and Innovation. Leading up to the meeting, several articles about ESO had appeared in the Danish press and the 2<sup>nd</sup> TV Channel featured a report on the ESO projects also in connection with the event.

A total of 12 companies and 7 research institutes, covering a wide spectrum of activities including systems engineering, antenna technologies, mechanical engineering, construction, software development, optical systems and composite materials participated in the meeting, together with a number of representatives of the relevant authorities, including the Danish members of the ESO Council, and the Confederation itself.

In the morning, the participants were welcomed by the deputy Director General of the Confederation of Danish Industries Mr Ole Krog and by Mr Leo Bjørnskov, Permanent Secretary of State for Science, Technology and Innovation. During the morning session, the ESO Director General

and several ESO staff members gave talks about ESO and its projects, especially the VLT 2<sup>nd</sup> generation instrumentation, ALMA and the 100-m OWL project. These talks were complemented by presentations by Danish astronomers and high-tech industries that had been involved with ESO projects.

In the afternoon, the meeting continued with dedicated workshops about the ALMA and OWL projects as well as a presentation about ESO procurement policies and practices. The workshops discussed a host of technical and procurement issues and gave the participating companies ample opportunity to familiarize themselves with the technical and commercial requirements by ESO.

As far as the industry presentation was concerned, the companies expressed great satisfaction with the information provided by ESO and many participants showed strong interest in a follow-up visit to the ESO Headquarters in Garching. It is the intention, with the help of the Consulate General, to organise such a visit in late January 2005.

In a separate ceremony in the afternoon, the ESO Director General and the Vice-Chancellor of the Copenhagen University, Mr Jørgen Olsen, signed the agreement for the construction of the *X-shooter*, a second generation VLT instrument scheduled to go into operation at one of the VLT Unit telescopes at Paranal in 2008 (see Page 7). The *X-shooter* will have the unique capability to



The ESO Director General addressing the participants to the industry presentation in Copenhagen.

obtain in a single exposure a high quality spectrum of a faint celestial target from the atmospheric cut-off in the UV to the near infrared. It will be particularly suited for the follow up of rapidly varying objects with an unknown spectrum like the powerful Gamma-Ray Bursts. *X-shooter* is a joint project of ESO with institutes in France, Denmark, Italy and the Netherlands. The Niels Bohr Institute (NBI) of the University of Copenhagen will provide several subsystems of the instrument including one of the spectrographs. For this project, the NBI will invest 19 man-years and has benefited from a grant by the Carlsberg Foundation and funding by the Descartes Prize.

Rounding up the visit, ESO's Director General gave a well-attended colloquium entitled 'ESO after 5 years of VLT', reviewing the most significant scientific results and the status of the ESO's projects, at the University of Copenhagen's Rockefeller complex.

## CHILE

ANDERSSON LUNDGREN, Andreas (SE)	Fellow
BAES, Maarten (B)	Fellow
BORISSOVA, Jordanka (BG)	Astronomer
CARUSO, Fabio (I)	Instr. Engineer
HERMANT, Charlotte (B)	Logistics Officer
LYNAM, Paul (UK)	Fellow
MIRABEL, Igor-Felix (F)	Repres. of ESO Chile
SUC, Vincent (F)	Student
STEFL, Stanislav (CZ)	Op.staff Astronomer
TELLO, Cristobal (CL)	Officer Chilean Affairs

## DEPARTURES

### EUROPE

BERRINGTON, Sylvia (PL)	Legal Advisor
BIANCHINI, Andrea (I)	Student
CRETTON, Nicolas (CH)	Fellow

DADDI, Emanuele (I)	Fellow
ETTORI, Stefano (I)	Fellow
GUZMAN, Ronald (BO)	Student
HEMPEL, Maren (D)	Student
KHRISTOFOROVA, Maria (RU)	Student
MASSERON, Thomas (F)	Student
MULLIS, Christopher (US)	Fellow
PIRENNE, Benoit (B)	Head, Ots Group
RICCIARDI, Francesco (I)	Software Engineer
PACE, Giancarlo (I)	Student

## CHILE

BLANCO LOPEZ, Leonardo (F)	Student
EHRENFELD, German (CL)	Mechanical Engineer
GUEGUEN, Alain (F)	Student
GUZMAN, Juan Carlos (CL)	Application Programmer
HUNTER, Ian (UK)	Student
MATHIEU, Michele (CL)	Logistics Supervisor
RAHOUI, Farid (F)	Student