

For any spectral line surveys with Herschel, follow-up measurements with ALMA will greatly increase the scientific value. However, it must be stressed that this requires Herschel surveys to be as complete as possible.

For an efficient synergy, ESA should devote Herschel time to Legacy projects, i.e. projects of large interest for the community, starting soon after the science verification phase and/or during the very early Herschel lifetime. It should make data available to the community as soon as possible, and provide access to data-reduction tools and calibration. This would be the case for Herschel surveys of Galactic and extragalactic sources, in continuum and spectroscopy.

Most efficient would be a scheme in which ESO reacts quickly to Herschel data. It would be useful to allocate ALMA observ-

ing time as soon as possible to measure variable sources, newly discovered sources, peculiar objects or in general to perform a complete follow-up both in line and continuum of selected fields.

The data sets that will be produced by Herschel and ALMA will be so large that there may have to be special data-reduction procedures to insure the optimal synergy. The analysis and comparisons with models will have to be made on an automatic basis without human intervention. Such computer analysis programs have been developed by Schöier et al. (2005), for example, but these must be further developed to accommodate the very large data sets that will be produced by ALMA and Herschel in the near future.

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References

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ESO at AAAS

Claus Madsen (ESO)

Even casual observers of ESO will have noticed a steady increase in public visibility for our organisation and its projects over the recent years. This increase is the result of a many-sided but focussed effort in public communication about ESO. Entertaining information stands at key fairs and conferences are part of this effort, and ESO's presence at this year's Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science – though a 'first' for us – is therefore no coincidence. This meeting is arguably the largest gathering of its kind worldwide. Indeed, no other event manages to attract more science journalists including a substantial number from Europe, which is certainly one of the reasons why more European organisations have begun to think about participating. Another reason is that the annual AAAS meetings provide plenty of opportunities for exchanges between American and European scientists and science policy makers.

This year's meeting took place on 16–20 February at America's Center in St Louis, Missouri. With an estimated 4000 participants this meeting was one of the 'smaller' AAAS



Photo: E. Janssen, ESO

gatherings, but nonetheless it featured nearly 200 symposia, plenary and topical lectures, in-depth seminars, poster presentations, career workshops, etc. in addition to a major exhibition. ESO's 30 sq m information stand was located in the main exhibition hall, located near the stands of the National Science Foundation and the European Commission.

Dr. Herbert Mürder (middle), one of the organisers of Euroscience Open Forum 2006, at the ESO stand.