

These very first observations of a nearby starburst nucleus reveal the potential of APEX in constraining the gas excitation in these nuclei. With broader band spectrometers and the chopping secondary coming soon, and given the exceptional observing conditions at the site, the impact of this facility on extragalactic astronomy will be significant.

Instruments for APEX

In parallel to the construction and commissioning of the APEX, a demanding cutting-edge technology programme has been launched to provide the best possible detectors for this outstanding facility. For its first observations, APEX was equipped with state-of-the-art submm receivers developed by MPIfR's Division for Submm Technology (FLASH I and II, Heyminck et al. 2006, with new technology Fast-Fourier-Transform spectrometers, Klein et al. 2006) and with a first facility receiver (working in the 345 GHz atmospheric window) build at Chalmers University (Risacher et al. 2006).

Soon the first array receivers will be commissioned: LABOCA, the 870 μm 295 pixel facility bolometer camera, is scheduled for June this year, and later in August the Champ⁺ 2×7 pixel heterodyne array of the MPIfR will be commissioned. In December OSO will deliver a suite of single pixel facility receivers covering the 210–500 GHz frequency range.

Observing with APEX

The observing time will be shared in proportion to the partner's investments (45 % MPIfR, 24 % ESO, and 21 % OSO), with 10 % allocated to Chile as host nation. On the ESO side, APEX proposals are reviewed by the ESO OPC and deadlines follow the normal ESO deadlines for proposal submission. The APEX web pages (www.apex-telescope.org) include technical descriptions of the system and observing time calculators. The observations are done in service mode, mainly during night-time. The Principal Investigators are asked to fill in a project submis-

sion form found in the web pages, which includes all information necessary for the APEX staff to perform the observations. The APEX raw data are stored in MBFits, the calibrated data in CLASS format. ESO and Swedish data are transferred to the ESO archive, and the release of data follow the ESO archive rules.

Acknowledgements

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References

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ALMA News

Tom Wilson (ESO)

ESO has selected Dr. Paola Andreani as the ARC Manager for ESO. Dr. Andreani will begin work at ESO Garching on 1 June 2006. Dr. Andreani is presently an Associate Astronomer at the Astronomical Observatory of Trieste, a part of INAF. Dr. Andreani is also a Co-I of Herschel/PACS and the local Project Manager of Herschel/SPIRE. She has been a working group manager of the Italian Herschel community, participating in the Herschel GTO process. Dr. Andreani is a well-known researcher in the field of extragalactic astronomy, and has carried out significant work on the Sunyaev-Zeldovich effect using the SEST.



Dr. Paola Andreani