

2007 ESO Instrument Calibration Workshop

23–26 January 2007, ESO Headquarters, Garching, Germany

The ESO La Silla Paranal Observatory (LPO) is currently operating 19 optical, NIR, and MIR instruments (9 VLT, 2 VLTI, 8 La Silla). To monitor and calibrate both the performance of each of these instruments and the quality of the data they deliver, ESO executes dedicated calibration plans. These systematic and regular measurements further aid in the calibration of data from science programmes, at least to specified levels of accuracy.

The first ESO/ST-ECF workshop on calibrating and understanding HST and ESO instruments was held in 1995 to review the calibration strategies of HST and ESO La Silla instruments and to prepare for the start of operation of the VLT.

Now in 2006, after seven years of science operation with the innovative, complex, and still growing instrumentation suite at the VLT, it is timely to review the achievements and limitations of the established instrument calibration plans together with the ESO user community.

Therefore, we invite you to join us at the first ESO Instrument Calibration Workshop to be held from 23–26 January 2007 at the ESO headquarters in Garching, Germany.

The goals of this workshop are to foster the sharing of information, experience and techniques between observers, instrument developers, and instrument operation teams, to review the actual precisions and limitations of the applied instrument calibration plans, and to collect the actual and future requirements by the ESO users.

Workshop topics are the calibration and data reduction of

- Optical Spectro-Imagers
- Optical Multi-object Spectrographs
- NIR and MIR Spectro-Imagers
- High-Resolution Spectrographs
- Integral Field Spectrographs
- Adaptive Optics Instruments
- Polarimetric Instruments
- Wide-field Imagers
- Interferometric Instruments
- Pipelines, Quality Control, Science Archive, AVO, Data-Reduction Systems, Software and Techniques.

The workshop will be focused on ESO instrumentation. A limited period of the workshop will be dedicated to new instruments on the horizon of the LPO, i.e. the VST, VISTA, and the VLT second generation instruments. Future challenges as arising with ELT instrumentation are of interest for the workshop but their presentation will be limited to invited talks. We expect that this workshop will lead to improved calibration plans to the benefit of the entire ESO user community as well as the ESO Science Archive.

ESO Organising Committee: Reinhard Hanuschik, Andreas Kaufer (chair), Florian Kerber (co-chair), Nando Patat, Michele Peron, Martino Romaniello, Michael Sterzik, Christina Stoffer, Lowell Tacconi-Garman.

Workshop webpage:
<http://www.eso.org/cal07>
Contact: cal07@eso.org

Towards the European Extremely Large Telescope

27 November–1 December 2006, Marseille, France

European astronomical research is at a critical juncture with the European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT) project currently being defined by the ESO ELT Project Office with a large involvement of the community through, in particular, topical working groups, OPTICON and the ELT Design Study, and with a decision to proceed designing the facility to be taken end 2006/early 2007. This meeting will offer the European astronomical community at large the opportunity to provide precious feedback to the goals

and means of that ambitious long-term programme. It will successively address the E-ELT Science case, its basic reference design and instrumentation concepts.

The meeting is organised in three main sessions: Science (1.5 days), Presentation by ESO of the E-ELT status and discussion (1.5 days), Instrumentation (1 day). Contributed talks (approximately 15 minutes each) and posters are invited for the Science and Instrumentation

sessions. Invited speakers will introduce the sub-sessions of the Science and Instrumentation sessions. Some important deadlines are as follows:

- Paper and poster submission:
31 July 2006
- Author notification: 30 September 2006
- Final programme: 31 October 2006

For further information, see <http://www.popsd.org/elt2006/index.php>