

ESO PR 02/07) and on results from the COSMOS survey. This, in turn, resulted in an enhanced presence of ESO in the media, ironically also on the European scene. ESO's first participation in the Winter Meeting of the AAS appeared therefore well justified and we look forward to attending next year's event in Austin, Texas.

From Seattle, the exhibition stand of ESO was then transferred a little bit further south, to San Francisco, where from 15 to 19 February, the AAAS meeting took place. The participation of ESO in the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, arguably the largest gathering of its kind worldwide, was not in this case a premiere, as ESO was already present at last year's meeting. In addition to the European Commission, another EIROforum member participated, namely the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL). With an estimated 10 000 participants and visitors, it is a privileged place for exchanges between American



Photo: E. Janssen, ESO

The AAAS Family Science Days drew the attention of a large number of youngsters and students who showed a great interest in the information provided at the ESO stand.

and European scientists and science policy makers, as well as an opportunity to get in touch with a large number of science journalists in a very short time-span.

With its 30 m² information stand at these two major events, ESO and its ambitious projects have been well represented across the Atlantic. In Europe, ESO was the key exhibitor at the Astro-Expo 2006



Photo: H. H. Heyer, ESO

The Lord Mayor of Dublin gets information on ESO's VLT.

event in Dublin in December. Organised by Astronomy and Space Magazine at the Dublin City University (DCU), the event was opened by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Vincent Jackson. With the exhibition and a public talk, ESO had a first chance to present itself to a broader audience in Ireland and there was clearly a strong interest in learning more about the organisation and its current and future projects.

Announcement of the ESO Workshop on

12 Questions on Star and Massive Star Cluster Formation

3–6 July 2007, ESO Headquarters, Garching, Germany



The goal is to bring together two communities: one working on star formation (mostly Galactic) and the other working on the formation of young massive clusters (mostly extragalactic). We will link Galactic with extragalactic work, optical/NIR techniques with sub-mm/mm/radio ones, the formation of stars with that of massive star clusters and observations with theory. Views will be exchanged on topics such as the earliest phases of star and star cluster formation, ultracompact and ultradense H II regions, embedded massive stars and star clusters, stages at which stars and clusters emerge in the NIR and the optical, and culminating with young massive clusters observed in starbursts.

The format is bold and new, aiming to focus attention on 12 critical questions in this area. Each of the 12 questions will be addressed in a dedicated session by all speakers. The session will include an introduction, several short contributions as well as a general discussion (with accompanying posters). The community was requested to propose the 12 questions. We have received over 30 proposals of which 12 have been selected to be discussed at the workshop.

The programme can be found at <http://www.eso.org/star07>

Organisers: Markus Kissler-Patig and Tom Wilson