

Announcement of

ONTHEFRINGE: The Very Large Telescope Interferometer Training Schools

Circumstellar discs and planets at very high angular resolution
28 May–8 June 2007, Porto, Portugal

Active Galactic Nuclei
27 August–7 September 2007, Torun, Poland

Optical interferometry is a new technology enabling observations at visible and infrared wavelengths with an angular resolution an order of magnitude larger than that achieved by the largest single telescopes currently available. Europe has achieved world leadership in this field with the ESO Very Large Telescope Interferometer (VLTI). This science machine will play a central role in understanding the lifecycles of stars in the Milky Way; the discovery and characterisation of planets orbiting stars in the Solar Neighbourhood, and the understanding of the energy conversion mechanisms in Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN).

ONTHEFRINGE is a set of four schools on optical interferometry and related science financed by the Marie Curie programme. The goal of the schools is to train young astronomers in the use of the

VLTI, therefore optimising the scientific return of the VLTI investment. Two of the schools are on data reduction. The first, on AMBER and MIDI, took place in Goutelas, France, in June 2006. A second one, on PRIMA and imaging, is planned for June 2008 in Hungary.

This year, two schools with a strong emphasis on science will take place. One on circumstellar discs and planets and another on AGNs. The goals of these schools are to present:

- a) an extensive introduction to the scientific field;
- b) place optical interferometry in context by presenting other techniques such as adaptive optics and mm-interferometry;
- c) teach interferometry basics in order to facilitate preparation of successful observational proposals for the VLTI.

In addition all schools have a complementary skills pack dealing with:

- a) presentation skills;
- b) topics in scientific written communication;
- c) professional ethics;
- d) career development; and
- e) opportunities in FP7 for young researchers.

To maximise interaction and learning the schools are open to only 50 students, and the vast majority have their participation (travel and living) fully financed by the Marie Curie programme.

For further information, including application procedures and rules for financing, please have a look at the ONTHEFRINGE site <http://www.vlti.org>

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