

(talk by L. Spezzi). As spectroscopic confirmation of a low effective temperature is often the final proof for a *candidate* substellar mass object, it is essential to build up spectral libraries for the lowest-mass objects. Some large sample spectroscopic projects, as well as detailed observations of individual objects, have been carried out, or are currently underway, as mentioned in talks by S. Antonucci, J. Patience and J. Bochanski.

In summary, the workshop stimulated a very successful exchange of ideas and new results, and was very well received by the participants. The success of the workshop and its smooth and efficient practical organisation would have not been possible without the dedicated work of ESO students and fellows (Joana Ascenso, Giacomo Beccari, Eli Bressert and Sebastian Daemgen) and Christina Stoffer, who all provided excellent sup-

port before, during and after the meeting. The workshop gratefully acknowledges the receipt of financial support from ESO, the LMU/Excellence Cluster and from MPE. Most of the talks and posters are available from the workshop webpage¹.

Links

¹ Workshop webpage: <http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2011/vlms2011.html>

Brazilian Teachers and Students Visit Paranal and ALMA

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¹ ESO

With Brazil poised to become the first non-European member of ESO, new opportunities exist to strengthen ties between the Brazilian astronomical community and ESO.

At the invitation of ESO’s Director General, a group of ten Brazilian teachers and students travelled to Chile in August 2011. All are members of the Louis Cruls Astronomy Club from the city of Campos in Rio de Janeiro state, and were led by Professor Marcelo Souza of Universidade Estadual do Norte Fluminense and with the support of Dr José Monserrat Filho, Advisor for International Cooperation from the Brazilian Space Agency.

Accompanied by the head of the Office for Science in Chile, the group visited the ALMA and Paranal sites during the week of 21–27 August. Seeing the ALMA array and the VLT up close was a dream come true for this enthusiastic group of amateur astronomers. Other highlights of the visit included an opportunity to chat with the ESO astronomer and fellow countryman, Claudio Melo, and to get an insider’s look at the VLT and ALMA operations.

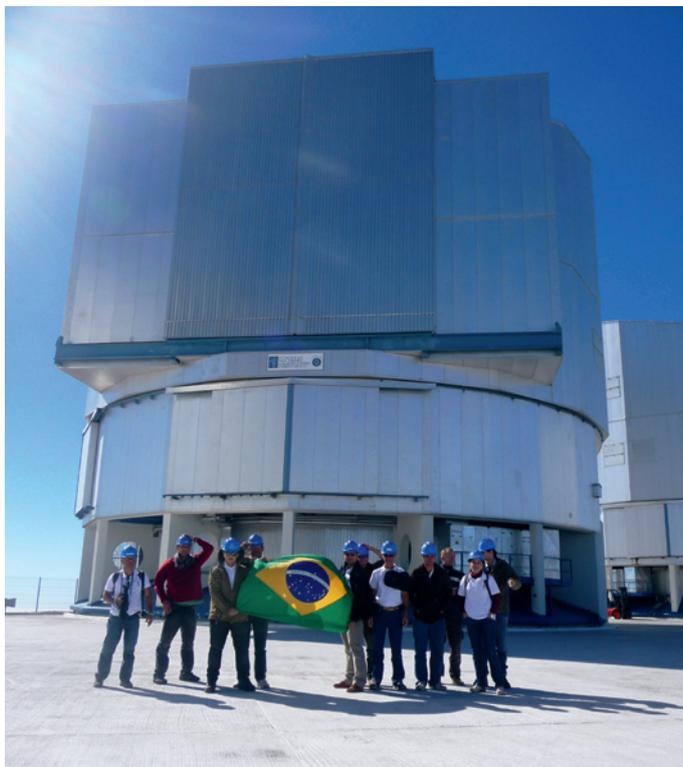


Figure 1. Teachers and students from the Brazilian Louis Cruls Astronomy Club during their visit to Paranal.

Brazil’s first astronaut, Marcos Pontes, has inspired millions of young Brazilians to consider scientific careers. “Brazil has a very bright future in science and technology,” he said, “but for this to come true, you have to have young people working in this area.” Thanks to the

opportunity to visit the ESO and ALMA facilities in Chile, today’s student members of the Louis Cruls Astronomy Club may be inspired to become tomorrow’s professional astronomers and engineers in Brazil.