

The Messenger to Become an Online-Only Publication

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Since its launch in May 1974, The Messenger has provided a regular stream of information about ongoing developments at ESO. Started originally with the primary goal of serving as an internal communication channel for ESO, nowadays its scope extends far beyond that. Today The Messenger serves as a link between ESO and its broad astronomical community by providing information about scientific, technical, and other developments. It also delivers relevant news about astronomy and astrophysics to

a broader public, including policy-makers, government officials, journalists, teachers, and amateur astronomers, as well as to interested scientists from other fields.

Together with the evolution of its scope and content, The Messenger has also undergone an evolution in the way in which it has been reaching its readers. Starting with a printed-only version in 1974, the first digital issues saw their first light in the 2000s, and gradually the complete archive of the journal has been made available to the community in digital form, enabling greater accessibility, usability, and traceability of the published articles.

Following recent developments in journal publication practices and the gradual change in the habits of our readers, as well as with sustainability in mind, ESO has decided that as of 2023 The Messenger will become an online-only publication. We invite our readers who wish to receive the new issues directly into their email inbox to subscribe using the link provided on The Messenger webpage¹. We also take this opportunity to inform our readers that, owing to resource limitations, there will be only two issues published in 2023, in the spring and in the autumn.

Links

¹ The Messenger webpage: <https://eso.org/messenger/>



This picture shows the spiral galaxy NGC 986 in the constellation Fornax (The Furnace). The galaxy, which was discovered in 1826 by the Scottish astronomer James Dunlop, is not often imaged owing to its proximity to the famous and rich Fornax

Cluster of galaxies. This is a shame, as this galaxy is not only a great scientific object, but also very pretty. This image was taken with the FORS instrument on ESO's Very Large Telescope at the Paranal Observatory in northern Chile.