

MIDAS Memo

ESO Image Processing Group

1. New Computer Facilities

The ESO scientific computer facilities were moved into new rooms in the extension of the ESO Headquarters in Garching. The machines in the old computer room were disconnected and moved to the new location in the basement of the new wing on July 16. Since there is no large elevator down to the room, all big items like computer racks, disk drives and tape units had to be taken out of the building and lowered down by a crane as seen in Figure 1. The new computer room contains now most of the scientific computer equipment in ESO including the two VAX 8600 computers, the IHAP HP system, the database machine IDM 500, and the peripherals like disk drives, terminal multiplexer and DICOMED image recording unit (see Figure 2). The ESO archive will also be placed in this room which is fully air-conditioned and fire protected by a halon system. The magnetic tape drives are located in an adjacent room with general access. The user room is now also located in the new wing on the entrance level. All IHAP and MIDAS image processing workstations are placed there in addition to a number of public available terminals connected to the VAX's. Figure 3 shows the half of the user room which is dedicated to MIDAS stations. Furthermore, the main printing and plotting facilities are in a central section of the user room.



Figure 1: Computer equipment lowered down to the new computer room.



Figure 2: The new computer room.

The Image Processing Group has also moved to new offices just above the user room.

2. Networks

Beside the existing connections through modem and package switching network, ESO will become accessible through the Space Physics Analysis Network (SPAN) and European Academic and Research Network (EARN) during this fall. The connection to SPAN which is based on DECnet has made it necessary to change the node names of the ESO computers. The full new names are ESOMC0 (previously MIDAS) and ESOMC1 (previously LEO) while the short form MC0 and MC1 can be used internally in most cases. For the non-DEC community, an EARN node is being established through a computer link to the MPI computer centre. This will also enable people with access to other

networks like BITNET to contact us via their gateway to EARN.

3. Data Analysis Workshop

During the previous ST-ECF Data Analysis workshop in February, there was felt a need for having an extensive discussion on MIDAS issues. To accommodate this wish, it was decided to devote a full day for MIDAS related matters. The first MIDAS workshop will be October 23, 1986, for convenience just after the next Data analysis workshop. This will contain sessions on the MIDAS manual, user feedback, and new applications in addition to the presentation of the design proposed for the portable MIDAS. The programme will be sent out together with other material for the Data Analysis workshop. People interested in participating in the MIDAS workshop should contact either the IPG or ST-ECF.

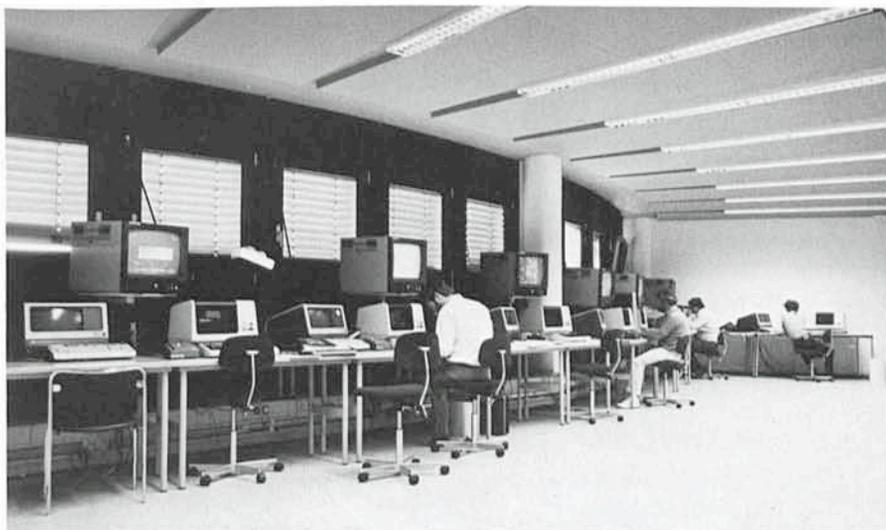


Figure 3: MIDAS workstations in the new user room.