



Figure 2: The NTT building on La Silla (Arch. U. Tolomeo).

NTT Progress

Since the last issue of the *Messenger*, the mechanical pre-assembly of the NTT at INNSE Brescia (Italy) has been completed and the electronic hardware and software integration has started.

Figure 1 shows the telescope structure. The optical elements are being polished at Carl Zeiss and completion is expected by summer 1988. In the meantime, the primary, secondary and tertiary

mirrors are substituted by steel concrete dummies while the telescope enters a phase of functional tests. It is expected to be shipped to Chile in March 1988.

Major advances have been made in the sphere of building activities and site preparation in the civil engineering work has begun on La Silla (construction of road, concrete base and service annex). The rotating building has been manufac-

tured in Europe and is expected to be shipped to Chile in October 1987.

Figure 2 shows an artist's impression of the NTT building in its future location on La Silla. The innovative design of the building distinguishes it from the traditional dome structures.

Both building and telescope are manufactured in such a way as to facilitate mounting and dismounting. *M. Tarenghi*

Site Evaluation for the VLT: a Status Report

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The instrumentation for the VLT site seeing evaluation programme has been progressively installed at La Silla and tested there during the course of 1986. Part of it was calibrated during the Lassca campaign against various optical measurements made on the La Silla telescopes (*The Messenger* No. 44).

It includes a 35-cm diameter optical telescope equipped with the differential motion monitor, an acoustic sounder (sodar) to probe the atmospheric turbulence up to 800 m above the site, a scintillometer which delivers information about the turbulence in the high atmosphere and a local turbulence monitoring system using fast temperature and wind speed sensors.



Figure 1: Trailed Sodar, Seeing monitor and control room shelter.