

ESO, the European Southern Observatory, was created in 1962 to . . . establish and operate an astronomical observatory in the southern hemisphere, equipped with powerful instruments, with the aim of furthering and organizing collaboration in astronomy . . . It is supported by six countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. It now operates the La Silla observatory in the Atacama desert, 600 km north of Santiago de Chile, at 2,400 m altitude. Seven telescopes with apertures up to 1.5 m are in operation; a 3.6 m telescope will become operational in 1976. The astronomical observations on La Silla are carried out by visiting astronomers—mainly from the member countries—and, to some extent, by ESO staff astronomers, often in collaboration with the former.

The ESO Headquarters in Europe will be located in Garching, near Munich, where early in 1979 all European activities will be centralized. The Office of the Director-General (mainly the ESO Administration) is at present in Hamburg and the scientific-technical group in Geneva, at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research), which since 1970 has been the host Organization of ESO's 3.6 m Telescope Project Division.

ESO has about 120 international staff members in Europe and Chile and about 150 local staff members in Santiago and on La Silla. In addition, there are a number of Fellows and Scientific Associates.

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La Casa de Huéspedes de ESO

En Santiago de Chile hay un lugar ideal donde los astrónomos pueden recuperar sus fuerzas después del viaje de Europa a Chile y después de las observaciones en La Silla: la Casa de Huéspedes en Calle Gustavo Adolfo 4634, en el sector residencial de Vitacura.

Casi todos los astrónomos europeos que han observado en La Silla han pasado por lo menos algunos días en la Casa de Huéspedes. En período de mucho trabajo ha sido necesario hospedar astrónomos y otros visitantes en hoteles, pero cambios recientes han logrado poder tener una capacidad para tener doce visitantes a la vez. Esperamos que esto sea suficiente para el pronto y esperado aumento de astrónomos cuando el ESO 3,6 m y el telescopio danés de 1,5 m comiencen a operar.

Folleto ESO

Un folleto sobre ESO de 16 páginas en dos colores está desde ahora disponible en la Administración de ESO en Hamburgo.

Este folleto da una pequeña información acerca de ESO y su historia, el Observatorio en La Silla, el Centro Técnico-Científico ESO en Europa y la investigación astronómica llevada en ESO.

El folleto ESO será enviado a aquellos que ya reciben el « Mensajero ». Ejemplares adicionales pueden ser obtenidos a pedido.

Cambio de la Administración de ESO de Hamburgo a Munich

El 1.º de julio de 1976, la Oficina del Director General de ESO se cambia desde Hamburgo-Bergedorf a Garching, cerca de Munich, donde la sede principal europea de ESO será construida (ver « El Mensajero » N.º 4, marzo 1976). La nueva dirección es:

ESO
Oficina del Director General
Schleißheimer Straße 17
D-8049 Garching (Munich)

First ESO Slide Set Now Available!

The European Southern Observatory is happy to announce the first photographs from the ESO 1 m Schmidt telescope in Chile. They are available in the form of slide sets consisting of 20 5 x 5 cm, black-and-white slides with brief descriptions, and show some of the southern sky's most spectacular and beautiful objects, including the Magellanic Clouds, The Eta Carinae nebula and Omega Centauri.

The price of this magnificent slide set is Swiss francs 16.— (or the equivalent) for Europe, and US\$ 6.— by surface mail to all other countries, or US\$ 8.50 by airmail (to be paid in advance).

Send cheque or bank draft to:

EUROPEAN SOUTHERN
OBSERVATORY
Alte Holstenstraße 1
D-205 HAMBURG 80

COMMERZBANK, Hamburg,
Account No. 8104442

Please note the change of address from July 1st, 1976 (cf. p. 4).

† M. Alain Beal

We deeply regret to announce the death of Monsieur Alain Beal, mechanic of the Creusot team now erecting the 3.6 m telescope on La Silla.

Monsieur Beal died on April 26, 1976 from the consequences of a fall from a height of eight metres in the telescope building.

He was thirty years old, married and lived in St. Chamond, France. He had already taken part in the test assembly of the 3.6 m instrument in Europe.

All who have worked with him feel deeply the loss of a young colleague who was always most friendly and cooperative.

D. Plathner

LATEST NEWS

3.6 m Horseshoe in Place

La Silla, May 26, 1976. Dr. S. Laustsen, in charge of the ESO 3.6 m telescope project, informs that the big horseshoe (diameter 9 metres, weight 37 tons) has now been mounted. The hydraulic system has been installed and oil will be pumped into the pads of the hour axis in a few days time, so that this axis can then be turned by hand. The assembly of the 3.6 m telescope is proceeding very well indeed.