

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 eight countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. It operates the La Silla observatory in the Atacama desert, 600 km north of Santiago de Chile, at 2,400 m altitude, where thirteen optical telescopes with diameters up to 3.6 m and a 15-m submillimetre radio telescope (SEST) are now in operation. A 3.5-m New Technology Telescope (NTT) will become operational in late 1988 and a giant telescope (VLT=Very Large Telescope), consisting of four 8-m telescopes (equivalent aperture = 16 m) is under construction. Eight hundred scientists make proposals each year for the use of the telescopes at La Silla. The ESO Headquarters are located in Garching, near Munich, FRG. It is the scientific-technical and administrative centre of ESO, where technical development programmes are carried out to provide the La Silla observatory with the most advanced instruments. There are also extensive facilities which enable the scientists to analyze their data. In Europe ESO employs about 150 international Staff members, Fellows and Associates; at La Silla about 40 and, in addition, 150 local Staff members.

The ESO MESSENGER is published four times a year: normally in March, June, September and December. ESO also publishes Conference Proceedings, Preprints, Technical Notes and other material connected to its activities. Press Releases inform the media about particular events. For further information, contact the ESO Information Service at the following address:

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The ESO Milky Way Panorama

Several organizations, planetaria, etc. have expressed interest in acquiring the unique Milky Way panorama which was described in the last issue of the *Messenger* (51, 20). It has therefore been decided to offer the panorama for sale in a limited edition.

A preliminary estimate has shown that the net cost of one panorama is around 5,000 DM. This includes especially sturdy packing to avoid the risk of damage in transit. The transport costs from ESO Garching are not included in the mentioned price and would depend on the desired transport mode and the distance.

Each panorama consists of 8 panels with high-quality photographic prints (see the full-scale photo on page 21 in *Messenger* 51), mounted on aluminium boards. For each panel, black edge protectors will be delivered. The combined dimension is about 1.5 m (height) × 8 m (width).

Interested parties are herewith requested to contact the ESO Information Service (address on this page) before September 15, 1988. Immediately after that date, and depending on the number of copies to be made, a definitive price will be established and prospective customers will be able to place firm orders. It is expected that delivery would follow within 6 weeks after receipt of orders.

Kindly note that the panorama will remain copyright ESO and that in order to ensure the best possible quality, no reproductions outside ESO control will be allowed.

Libro de la ESO en venta en español

Se está preparando una versión en español del libro de la ESO "Explorando el Cielo Austral" (ver el *Mensajero* n° 43). Pronto se podrá obtener en las librerías más importantes de España y otros países de habla española, y en Sudamérica.

Informes sobre esta edición pueden obtenerse también en la editorial: Equipo Sirius (Tribuna Astronómica), Desengaño 19-10°, E-28004 Madrid (fono: 91-521 6008).

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