

that is believed to be one of the best on the market, will be ready at the telescope early next year. Asked by the Director General about the willingness of some European institutes to contribute to a series of standardized CCD cameras for ESO, B. Fort gave a positive answer.

The coming into operation of the NTT has been unanimously reported as a small-scale example of the impact the VLT might have on La Silla operations. In particular, D. Hofstadt lamented the underestimation of the amount of work required at La Silla to make this new telescope ready for common users: three years of heavy work have been necessary. In general it has to be carefully considered that whenever an instrument has been finished in Garching

and is delivered at the telescope, a non-negligible amount of work is still required at the Chilean site to take care of all those more or less important details which have been overlooked.

Some of those present noted that the NTT has also absorbed part of the resources of the Astronomy Support Department, and this has resulted in less assistance at telescopes like the 1.5-m Danish or the 2.2-m.

Due to the pressure of the VLT project, the Director General reported 24 positions at La Silla will be phased out of the existing 140 over the next two and a half years. This reduction will affect proportionally the various departments and, to maintain and improve the La Silla standards, a process of "streamlining" will be necessary. An important part of

### Tentative Time-table of Council Sessions and Committee Meetings until end of 1991

November 11-12:	Scientific Technical Committee
November 14-15:	Finance Committee
November 28-29:	Observing Programmes Committee
December 2-6:	Council, in Chile

the staff will be moved to Santiago, in the Vitacura premises, with the aim of reducing the number of people on the mountain and to economically support both La Silla and VLT Observatories in the future.

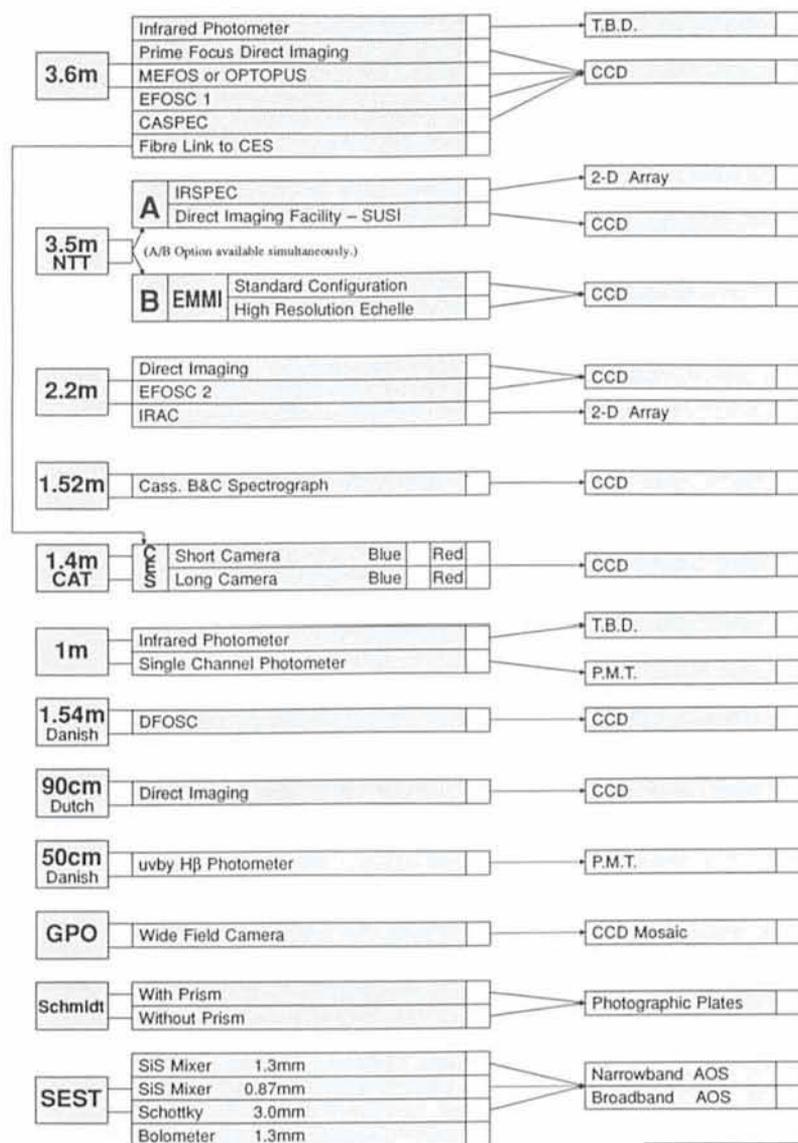
Fewer people on the mountain imply less board and lodging, less transport, fewer administrative requirements, allowing some economies. This of course involves a certain amount of simplification of La Silla: telescopes, like the Bochum and perhaps the ESO 50-cm, will be closed, the number of instrument change-overs will be reduced, the scheduled runs will become longer. Less direct assistance to the astronomers will necessarily imply the preparation of better and more detailed telescope and instrument manuals.

D. Hofstadt illustrated the upgrades already taking place or planned for the next years: the 1.5-m Danish adapter will be renewed; the 90-cm Dutch has a new adapter and a CCD camera; IRAC will be upgraded; the prime focus at the 3.6-m is available for direct imaging (which could then be removed from the 2.2-m); the fibre spectrograph MEFOS will also be installed at the 3.6-m. A possible evolution of the telescopes and auxiliary equipment from now to 1993 and 1996 is shown in three ESO menus (see Figures), according to a document presented by the Director General to the Council. These are illustrations, not, as yet, decisions.<sup>1</sup>

However, the simplification of the La Silla instrumentation, as remarked by E. Cappellaro, is a very delicate process, especially when the final decisions about the various instruments have to be taken. Many people, for example, would be upset if the B&C spectrograph, the only one allowing certain investigations of galaxy dynamics, is removed from the 2.2-m, others will cry if CASPEC is confined to the ESO 1.5-m, and even J. Melnick disagrees with D.

<sup>1</sup> Readers/ESO users are reminded that suggestions and comments are welcome and may influence ESO decisions. Please direct your communications to the Director General.

### Available Telescopes and Auxiliary Equipment



Note: T.B.D. = Detector To Be Determined.

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