



Figure 4: 10:30 p.m.: ready to go.



Figure 5: 00:30 a.m.: on the way to REOSC plant.

REOSC representatives.

Preliminary observations seem to show that even during the toughest

tests, the accelerations experienced were well below the critical values for a Zerodur mirror. This, of course, will have

to be confirmed after the data recorded by the vibration sensors will be reduced. That should be done by the end of June.

Introducing the First VLT Instrument Science Teams

J. M. BECKERS, ESO

As described in the *Messenger* 65, page 10, ESO has embarked on a very ambitious programme of instrument construction for its Very Large Telescope. The simultaneous construction of four 8-metre telescopes with four focus stations each as well as combined foci using incoherent and coherent beam combination result in the need for a relatively large complement of instruments, well exceeding the initial instrumentation requirements of other large telescopes like the Keck telescope. The VLT instruments are being constructed both in-house by the ESO optical and infrared instrumentation groups and by consortia of institutes in ESO member countries. Recently contracts have been signed with a consortium headed by I. Appenzeller from the Landessternwarte in Heidelberg for the construction of two VLT Focal Reducers/Spectrographs (FORS) for the Cassegrain foci of the first and third VLT 8-metre telescopes and with a consortium headed by R. Lenzen from the Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie, also in Heidelberg, for the construction of the Coudé Near Infrared Camera (CONICA) for the first VLT telescope. These instruments were described in the 67th issue of the *Messenger*. The instruments being built by ESO are the Infrared Spectrograph and Array Camera (ISAAC) for the first VLT telescope and two copies of the Ultraviolet/Visible

Echelle Spectrograph (UVES) for the Nasmyth foci of the second and third VLT telescopes.

Both the ISAAC and UVES proposals were reviewed and approved by the ESO Scientific Technical Committee (STC). A number of other instruments are in the definition phase which will lead to proposals for their construction to ESO.

These instruments are common-user instruments being built for the scientific community. They therefore have to be built following high standards of quality, reliability and standardization. ESO has also decided to create for each instrument a team of scientists representing its user community (or "customers"). After the approval of each instrument, either by the signing of the construction contract or by STC approval, such an Instrument Science Team is created. The IST team monitors the implementation of its instrument, concentrating on issues relating to its scientific use. It is asked for its advice on matters relating to this use, and it reports directly to the ESO Director General and the VLT Programme Scientist.

At this moment Instrument Science Teams have been formed for CONICA, FORS and ISAAC. UVES was only approved recently (May 12, 1992) by the STC. Its IST will therefore be created shortly. The membership of the three Instrument Science Teams is as follows:

Coudé Near-Infrared Camera (CONICA)

T. de Jong (Groningen)
C. Perrier (Grenoble)
M.-H. Ulrich (ESO), chair
H. Zinnecker (Würzburg)

Focal Reducer/Spectrograph (FORS)

J. Bergeron (Paris)
S. Cristiani (Padova)
P. Shaver (ESO), chair
J. Surdej (Liège)

Infrared Spectrograph and Array Camera (ISAAC)

R. Chini (Bonn)
G. Miley (Leiden), chair
E. Oliva (Firenze)
J.L. Puget (Orsay)

Each IST has four members. For instruments built by ESO all members are selected from institutes in ESO member countries, for instruments built elsewhere the IST is chaired by a member of the ESO scientific staff. These teams represent the future user community of these instruments. They therefore welcome your input on scientific matters relating to these instruments, as does the VLT Programme Scientist (the author of this note).