In the end, ESO made mistakes during the Period 58–60 NTT service observing programme, but we also learned many valuable lessons. VLT science operations will benefit significantly from this initial prototype programme.

In the next article of this series, the OB creation process will be discussed.

8. Acknowledgements

The NTT service observing programme was a team effort. During this programme, the NTT Team was lead by Jason Spyromilio and Gautier Mathys, both of whom contributed enormous amounts of their time and energy into this programme. Significant service observing support and operations feedback was provided by the following NTT Team members: Fernando Comerón, Jean-François Gonzalez, Chris Lidman, Pierre Martin, Marco Scodeggio, and Griet van de Steene. In Garching, NTT Data Flow Operations support came from the following DMD User Support Group members: Carlo Boarotto, A. Maurizio Chavan, Gino Giannone, Steve Roche; Petia Andreeva, Fabio Bresolin, Rodrigo Ibata, and Patrick Woudt. Data Flow Operations support also came from the DMD Science Archive Operations Team: Benoit Pirenne, Susan Hill, and Fabio Sogni. As always, Bruno Leibundgut struggled valiantly to keep us on the True Path. Special thanks to Stephanie Cote, and especially, Albert Zijlstra who contributed so much during the grim, early days.

Extra special thanks to all the astronomers who were awarded NTT Service Mode time during P58–P60. Hopefully, all your hard work has paid off in useful NTT data now and better VLT science operations in the future.

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SOFI Infrared Images of the 'NTT Deep Field'

Deep infrared J (1.25 μm) and Ks (2.16 μm) band images of a 5×5 arcmin field centred on $12^h\ 05^m\ 26^s$; –07 43 27 (J2000) obtained during the commissioning of SOFI (Moorwood, Cuby and Lidman, 1998, *The Messenger*, 91, 9) at the NTT in March 1998 will be made available via the Web (under Science Activities on ESO's Homepage) in early June. The Ks image is shown here in Figure 1. This field contains the smaller region observed with SUSI (D'Odorico, 1997, *The Messenger*, 90, 1) for which visible images are already available on the Web. The infrared images have been constructed from jittered observations totalling 4.3 hours in J and 10.4 hours in Ks and have an average point source FWHM of about 0.75 arcsec. Limiting magnitudes (3σ within a 1.5 arcsec diameter aperture) are J = 24.66 and Ks = 22.87. Full details of the observations and data reduction will be put on the Web together with instructions for retrieving the images.

A. MOORWOOD

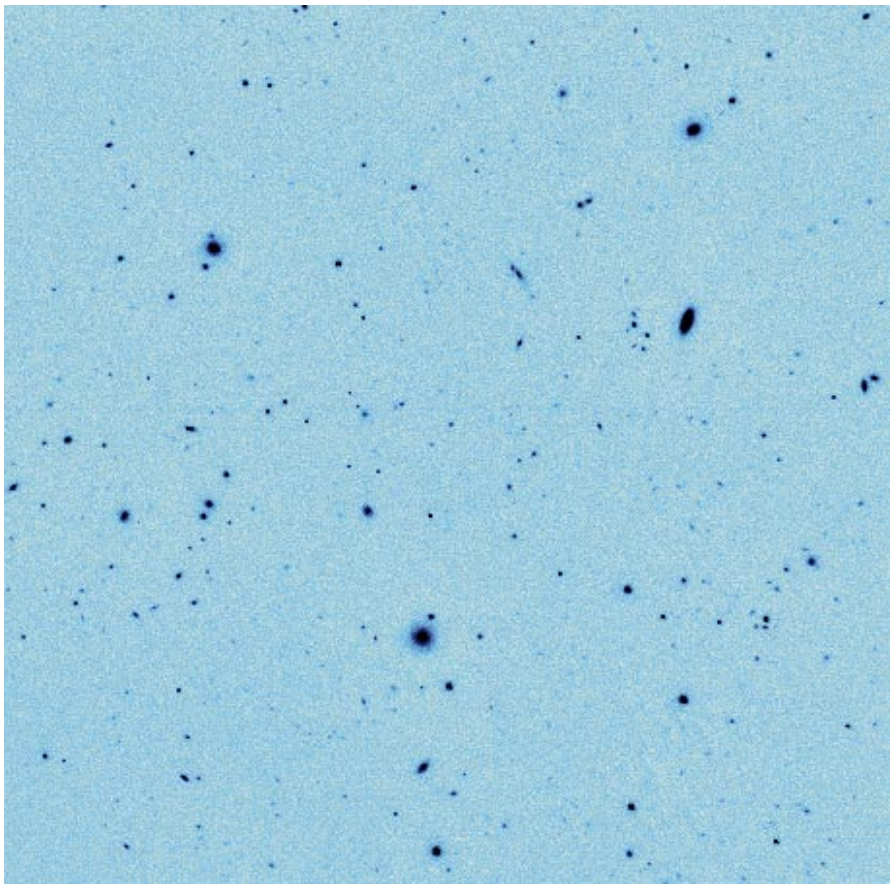

Figure.1: Ks (2.16 μm) image of the NTT Deep Field. The field is ~ 5 × 5 arcmin, seeing is ~ 0.75 arcsec and the 3σ limiting magnitude in a 1.5 arcsec diameter aperture is 22.87 (data reduced by P. Saracco).