PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

ESO Workshop on Minor Bodies in the Outer Solar System

ESO Headquarters, Garching, Germany
November 2–5, 1998

A four-day ESO Workshop on Minor Bodies in the Outer Solar System (ESO MBOSS-98), their orbital and physical characteristics, as well as their origins and inter-relationships will be held at a time when several new observational facilities, including the ESO Very Large Telescope (VLT), are about to enter into operation. With larger collecting areas and equipped with a host of advanced instruments, they have the potential of revolutionising observational studies of these faint objects. An overview of this active research field at this time will therefore provide an important contribution to the efficient planning of these investigations.

This is a hot subject in current solar-system studies. There is an image emerging of interconnections between Jovian Trojans, the Centaurs, the newly found classes of TNO’s, comet nuclei, interplanetary dust and the icy moons of outer planets, including Pluto itself. The ESO Workshop will allow observers and theoreticians to get together and to discuss plans for future studies in this rapidly evolving field. The emphasis will be on establishing a comprehensive, overall picture which attempts to describe the formation, evolution and interaction of these components.

The meeting will be held in the ESO main auditorium, and the number of participants is therefore limited to a maximum of approximately 120.

The main topics of the Workshop will be the following:

- Inventory of Minor Bodies in Outer Solar System (overview)
- Outer Solar System reservoirs (Outer Main Belt and Trojans; Centaurs and Interplanetary Rings; TNO’s and Edgeworth-Kuiper Belt; Trans-Neptunian Disk and Oort Cloud)
- Orbital dynamics and evolution (High-precision orbital determinations; Resonance trapping; Similarity and diversity of orbital types; Pathways between the reservoirs)
- Physical properties (Size, shape and rotation; Composition and atmospheres)
- Physical interrelationships (Transitional asteroid/comet cases; Interplanetary dust)
- Origin and physical evolution (Theories of planetary formation; Collisional history; Growth and physical evolution)
- Future lines of research (Research possibilities with new generation of very large telescopes; Spacecraft missions; Innovative techniques; Collaboration/coordination)

Scientific Organising Committee:
Rudi Albrecht (ST/ECF, Garching, Germany); Mark Bailey (Armagh Observatory, N. Ireland, UK); Hermann Boehnhardt (ESO, Santiago, Chile); Martin Duncan (Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada); Julio A. Fernandez (Universidad de la Republica, Montevideo, Uruguay); Alan Fitzsimmons (Queen’s University, Belfast, N. Ireland, UK; SOC Chair); David Jewitt (Institute of Astronomy, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA); Hans Rickman (Astronomiska Observatoriet, Uppsala, Sweden); Alan Stern (South-West Research Institute, Austin, Texas, USA); Jun-ichi Watanabe (National Observatory, Tokyo, Japan); Richard West (ESO, Garching, Germany; LOC Chair)

More details and a registration form can be found at: http://www.eso.org/gen-fac/meetings/mboss98/ or contact: rwest@eso.org for more information or one of the SOC members.

PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS

International Staff (1 April – 30 June 1998)

ARRIVALS

EUROPE
MØLLER, Palle (DK), User Support Astronomer
TOLSTOY, Eline (NL), Fellow Garching

CHILE
FRANÇOIS, Patrick (F), Astronomer
STERZIK, Michael (D), Astronomer

DICHIRICO, Canio (I), Temporary transfer to Paranal
GIORDANO, Paul (F), Temporary transfer to Paranal
DOUBLIER, Vanessa (F), Fellow La Silla
PATAT, Ferdinando (I), Fellow La Silla
MARCO, Olivier (F), Fellow La Silla
VANZI, Leonardo (I), Fellow La Silla
SERMAN, Fernando (RCH), Associate

DEPARTURES

EUROPE
HERLIN, Thomas (DK), Software Engineer
HESS, Matthias (D), Mechanical Engineer
VAN DIJSSELDONK, Anton (NL), Opt. Lab. Technician
KAPER, Lex (NL), Senior Fellow Garching
BÜTTINGHAUS, Ralf (D), Mechanic
CRANE, Philippe (USA), Astronomer/Physicist

CHILE
GREDEL, Roland (D), Astronomer
KRETSCHEMER, Gerhard (D), Mechanical Engineer