

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 organising collaboration in astronomy ..." It is supported by eight countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. ESO operates at two sites. It operates the La Silla observatory in the Atacama desert, 600 km north of Santiago de Chile, at 2,400 m altitude, where fourteen optical telescopes with diameters up to 3.6 m and a 15-m submillimetre radio telescope (SEST) are now in operation. In addition, ESO is in the process of building the Very Large Telescope (VLT) on Paranal, a 2,600 m high mountain approximately 130 km south of Antofagasta, in the driest part of the Atacama desert. The VLT consists of four 8.2-metre and several 1.8-metre telescopes. These telescopes can also be used in combination as a giant interferometer (VLTI). "First Light" of the first 8.2-metre telescope (UT1) occurred in May 1998. UT1 will be available on a regular basis for astronomical observations from April 1999 on. Over 1000 proposals are made each year for the use of the ESO telescopes. The ESO Headquarters are located in Garching, near Munich, Germany. This is the scientific, technical and administrative centre of ESO where technical development programmes are carried out to provide the La Silla and Paranal observatories with the most advanced instruments. There are also extensive astronomical data facilities. In Europe ESO employs about 200 international staff members, Fellows and Associates; in Chile about 70 and, in addition, about 130 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 Education and Public Relations Department at the following address:

EUROPEAN
SOUTHERN OBSERVATORY
Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2
D-85748 Garching bei München
Germany
Tel. (089) 320 06-0
Telefax (089) 3202362
ips@eso.org (internet)
URL: <http://www.eso.org>

The ESO Messenger:
Editor: Marie-Hélène Demoulin
Technical editor: Kurt Kjær

Printed by
Druckbetriebe Lettner KG
Georgenstr. 84
D-80799 München
Germany

ISSN 0722-6691

CHILE

BRYNNEL, Joar (S), Temporary Transfer to Paranal
RANTAKYRÖ, Fredrik (S), Associate, SEST
ALLOIN, Danielle (F), Chile Deputy of the Associate Director for
Science
SANGASSET, Pierre (F), Mechanical Engineer
PETR, Monika (D), Fellow

DEPARTURES

EUROPE

DE RUIJSSCHER, Resy (NL), Administrative Clerk
DUC, Pierre-Alain (F), Fellow
KROKER, Harald (D), Fellow
LUCY, Leon (GB), HST Scientist
PITTICHOVÁ, Jana (SK), Student

Contents

OBSERVING WITH THE VLT

The VLT-UT1 Science Verification Team: Science Verification Observations on VLT-UT1 Completed	1
M. Sarazin: Astroclimate During Science Verification	2
M. Tarengi, P. Gray, J. Spyromilio, R. Gilmozzi: The First Steps of UT1	4
Portuguese Minister of Science at Paranal	7
The Cost of the VLT	8
B. Koehler: ESO and AMOS Signed Contract for the VLTI Auxiliary Telescopes ...	11
B. Koehler, F. Koch: UT1 Passes "With Honour" the First Severe Stability tests for VLTI	11

TELESCOPES AND INSTRUMENTATION

D. Baade et al.: The Wide Field Imager for the 2.2-m MPG/ESO Telescope: a Preview	13
THE LA SILLA NEWSPAGE	
O.R. Hainaut: News from the NTT	16
C. Lidman: SOFI Receives its First Users	16
M. Sterzik: 3.6-m Telescope Passes Major Upgrade Milestones	17
The 2p2team: 2.2-m Telescope Upgrade Started	19

THE ESO AND ST-ECF ARCHIVES

B. Pirenne, M. Albrecht, B. Leibundgut: ESO and ST-ECF Archive News	20
M. Albrecht: The VLT Data Volume	21
B. Pirenne, M. Albrecht: Using DVD Technology for Archiving Astronomical Data ..	22
M. Dolenski, A. Micol, B. Pirenne, M. Rosa: How the Analysis of HST Engineering Telemetry Supports the WFPC2 Association Project and Enhances FOS Calibration Accuracy	23
B. Pirenne, B. McLean, B. Lasker: ST-ECF Participation in the GSC-II Generation Project	25
M. Dolenski, A. Micol, B. Pirenne: HST Archive Services Implemented in Java ..	26
A. Micol, D. Durand, S. Gaudet, B. Pirenne: HST Archive News: On the Fly Recalibration (OTF) of NICMOS and STIS Data	27
A. Micol, B. Pirenne: HST Archive News: WFPC2 Associations	28
Image from the VLT Science Verification Programme	29

SCIENCE WITH THE VLT/VLTI

M. Arnaboldi, M. Capaccioli, D. Mancini, P. Rafanelli, R. Scaramella, G. Sedmak, G.P. Vettolani: VST: VLT Survey Telescope	30
--	----

REPORTS FROM OBSERVERS

A.R. Tieftrunk, S.T. Megeath: Star Formation Toward the "Quiescent" Core NGC 6334 I(N)	36
M. Rubio, G. Garay, R. Probst: Molecular Gas in 30 Doradus	38

OTHER ASTRONOMICAL NEWS

B. Nordström: A Fresh Look at the Future: "La Silla 2000++"	42
M.-P. Véron, G. Meylan: 6th ESO/OHP Summer School in Astrophysical Observations	43
C. Madsen, R. West: Sea & Space – A Successful Educational Project for Europe's Secondary Schools	44

ANNOUNCEMENTS

List of New ESO Publications	46
Pierre Léna: Jean-Marie Mariotti (1955–1998)	47
Personnel Movements	47