

In this framework and as a fitting illustration of the good relations between Chile and Europe, ESO was invited by the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs to present itself, its activities in Chile and the astronomical research conducted by the scientific community. This dedicated ESO exhibition was located at the entrance to the pavilion and included a 26-m-long corridor ultimately leading up to a first floor 'market area' devoted to Chilean commercial products. The left-hand side of the corridor featured large pictures of the ESO sites and telescopes, whereas the right-hand side described the climate and geology of Chile by means of pictures and texts. An 8-m-long panoramic colour photo of the Milky Way was attached to the ceiling to illustrate the outstanding observing conditions found in the Chilean desert. On a platform at the end of the corridor, panels and short videos dealt with some of the key astronomical questions and challenges for the VLT. A model of the VLT was on display and the new ESO VLT video caused several 'traffic jams' in the corridor as many visitors paused to see the film in its entire length.

The ESO exhibition was opened on April 19 with a formal visit by the President of Chile, Don Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle,



Figure 2: View of the ESO 'corridor'.

who demonstrated expert knowledge of technology and science at ESO, together with Mr. Gerhard Glogowski, Prime minister of Lower Saxony. On the following day, Ms. Edelgard Bulmahn, the German Federal Minister for Research, Mr. Werner Müller, Federal Minister of

Economics and Ms. Heidi Merk, Deputy Prime minister of Lower Saxony, paid visits to the ESO exhibition.

By April 24, when the fair closed, more than 20,000 people had passed through the ESO area, leaving behind an exhausted, but most satisfied ESO staff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS

International Staff

(1 April 1999 – 30 June 1999)

ARRIVALS

EUROPE

BLOCK, Roland (D), Personnel Officer/Head of Personnel
 BROADHURST, Thomas (UK), User Support Astronomer
 CRISTIANI, Stefano (I), Instrument Scientist/Astronomer
 DORN, Reinhold (D), CCD Detector Specialist
 FUCHS, Rainer (D), Legal Advisor
 GEIMER, Christoph (D), Electronics Technician
 GIANNONE, Gino (I/CH), Software Engineer
 HUXLEY, Alexis (GB), VLT Software System Manager for UNIX Computers
 JUNG, Yves (F), Scientific Applications Developer
 REYES, Javier (E), Electronics Engineer
 ROSATI, Piero (I), VLT Programme Scientist
 SCHÖLLER, Markus (D), VLT Instrument Scientist
 SIVERA, Paola (I), Software Engineer
 STRÖBELE, Stefan (D), Adaptive Optics Laboratory Engineer
 VEDSOE, Lone (DK), Accounting Assistant
 VERNET, Joël (F), Coopérant ST-ECF
 ZAMPIERI, Stefano (I), Archive System Designer and Database Engineer

CHILE

BRILLANT, Stéphane (F), Fellow
 KAUFER, Andreas (D), Operations Staff Astronomer
 LERNER, Mikael (S), SEST Microwave Engineer
 RANTAKYRÖ, Fredrik (S), Fellow
 SZEIFERT, Thomas (D), Operations Staff Astronomer

DEPARTURES

EUROPE

ANSORGE, Wolfgang (D), VLT Product Assurance Manager/
 Safety Manager
 GERDES, Rolf (D), Deputy Group Leader of the Optical Detector Group
 ZAIÉPOUR, Houri (F), Archive System Designer/Engineer
 ROSATI, Piero (I), Fellow
 VERNET, Joël (F), Student
 BALESTRA, Andrea (I), Associate
 STRÖBELE, Stefan (D), Student

CHILE

PERSSON, Glenn (S), SEST Software Engineer

Local Staff – Chile

(February–June 1999)

ARRIVALS

GARCIA, Enrique, Electronics Technician
 URETA, Eugenio, Construction Group Leader
 HERRERA, Gabriel, Maintenance Mechanical Technician
 LECAROS, Fernando, Telescope/Instruments Operator
 LOPEZ, Ariel, Telescope/Instruments Operator
 MONTANO, Nelson, Maintenance Mechanical Engineer
 FLORES, Erito, Maintenance Mechanical Engineer
 KASTINEN, Ismo, Telescope/Instruments Operator
 MCKINSTRY, Christopher, Telescope/Instruments Operator

DEPARTURES

MARÍN, Héctor, Dibuj. Diseñador/Supervisor de Terreno
 MORENO, Nicolás, Telescope/Instruments Operator
 RICHARDSON, Felipe, Software Engineer/Developer
 PIZARRO, María, Bilingual Secretary (VLT-SB Project)