



A 15 Metre Submillimetre Telescope on La Silla

During its last meeting, on 7 June 1984, the ESO Council approved the agreement between the Swedish Natural Science Research Council and ESO on the joint installation and operation on La Silla of a 15 m submillimetre telescope and the agreement between IRAM and ESO under which IRAM will provide the telescope.

The observing time will be shared equally between Sweden and ESO. Much of the technical responsibility for the project would lie with the Onsala Space Observatory which operates a 20 m millimetre telescope on Onsala. The Swedish/ESO Sub-

millimetre Telescope (SEST) is scheduled to become operational in 1987.

Director General Reappointed

Prof. L. Woltjer has been reappointed by the ESO Council to be Director General for the period 1 January 1985 to 31 December 1989.

The Remote Control Run from La Serena, June 10–17, 1984

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With the expenditure of missions from Europe to Chile showing a steady increase, not only because of flight prices but also because of the rise in infrastructure upkeep of remote sites, along with a clear tendency to lower the cost of satellite transmission, it seems to us that remote control will become an economical system to operate telescopes.

It is important to underline here that the economic factor is not the only one, and probably not even the major one. The real reason for the modern tendency towards remote control is the hope to make better use of our present and future telescopes. Possible advantages directly or indirectly coming from remote control are:

(1) The telescope can be located on the best possible site, which may in itself not be comfortable for astronomers.

Change of ESO telephone number in Santiago

Please take note that the telephone number of La Silla via the ESO Santiago office has been changed from 88757 to **6988757**.

(2) Larger groups of astronomers can participate in observing programmes.

(3) Better use of telescope time. Scheduling of telescopes becomes more flexible and it will be possible to make maximum use of the best seeing nights.

(4) Better collaboration between technical maintenance in Chile and Europe will result. Instrument tests will have the advantage of being carried out under the control of a larger technical team, and in particular by the group who assembled the equipment in Europe.

We are investigating possible systems of communication between the observatory and Europe. The transmission of data between the telescope control system and some type of data processing and visualization equipment in Garching should include the transmission in real time of the telescope's field image and the instrument's data and, in the reverse direction, the transmission of the control commands.

If the operation of the telescope cannot be fully automated, a means of communication between the observer in Garching and a night assistant in La Silla must be provided.



Fig. 1: *La Serena, 16 June 1984. The control room at the ESO La Serena office, during a measurement of the seeing of the La Silla sky.*