

ESO is the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere. Whilst the Headquarters (comprising the scientific, technical and administrative centre of the organisation) are located in Garching near Munich, Germany, ESO operates three observational sites in the Chilean Atacama desert. The Very Large Telescope (VLT), is located on Paranal, a 2 600 m high mountain south of Antofagasta. At La Silla, 600 km north of Santiago de Chile at 2 400 m altitude, ESO operates several medium-sized optical telescopes. The third site is the 5 000 m high Llano de Chajnantor, near San Pedro de Atacama. Here a new submillimetre telescope (APEX) is in operation, and a giant array of 12-m submillimetre antennas (ALMA) is under development. Over 1 600 proposals are made each year for the use of the ESO telescopes.

The ESO MESSENGER is published four times a year: normally in March, June, September and December. ESO also publishes Conference Proceedings and other material connected to its activities. Press Releases inform the media about particular events. For further information, contact the ESO Public Affairs Department at the following address:

ESO Headquarters  
Karl-Schwarzschild-Straße 2  
85748 Garching bei München  
Germany  
Phone +49 89 320 06-0  
Fax +49 89 320 23 62  
information@eso.org  
www.eso.org

The ESO Messenger:  
Editor: Peter Shaver  
Technical editor: Jutta Boxheimer  
www.eso.org/messenger/

Printed by  
Peschke Druck  
Schatzbogen 35  
81805 München  
Germany

© ESO 2005  
ISSN 0722-6691

## Contents

I. Hook et al. – Science with Extremely Large Telescopes	2
<b>Reports from Observers</b>	
H.-U. Käufel et al. – Deep Impact at ESO Telescopes	11
A Triple Asteroid System	17
S. Randich et al. – FLAMES Observations of Old Open Clusters	18
W. Gieren et al. – Measuring Improved Distances to Nearby Galaxies: The Araucaria Project	23
C. Péroux et al. – Early Galaxy Evolution: Report on UVES Studies of a New Class of Quasar Absorbers	29
A New Einstein Ring	32
M. Swinbank et al. – Resolved Spectroscopy of a $z = 5$ Gravitationally Lensed Galaxy with the VIMOS IFU	33
Farthest Known Gamma-Ray Burst	35
M. J. Jarvis et al. – Surveying the High-Redshift Universe with the VIMOS IFU	38
S. Lilly et al. – The zCOSMOS Redshift Survey	42
Observing with the New High-Speed Camera ULTRACAM on Melipal	46
<b>Telescopes and Instrumentation</b>	
T. Wilson – ALMA News	48
J. Eschwey – ALMA Site Development	50
M. Cullum – Technology Transfer at ESO	52
<b>Other Astronomical News</b>	
R. A. E. Fosbury – The ESA-ESO Topical Science Working Groups	56
F. Kerber, O. Hainaut – ESA-ESO Working Group on Extra-Solar Planets	56
I. Robson, L. L. Christensen – Report on the ESO-ESA-IAU Conference Communicating Astronomy with the Public 2005	59
P. Padovani, M. Dolensky – Report on the ESO Workshop on Virtual Observatory Standards and Systems for Data Centres and Large Projects	60
P. Shaver et al. – Report on the EPS-ESA-ESO-CERN Conference on Relativity, Matter and Cosmology	62
E. Janssen – ESO Public Activities in July 2005	63
G. Argandoña, F. Mirabel – Public Information and Education in Chile	64
G. Miley et al. – Universe Awareness for Young Children	66
Catherine Cesarsky Elected Member of Academies of Sciences	68
Fellows at ESO – C. Foellmi, M. Wold	69
<b>Announcements</b>	
International Conference on Relativistic Astrophysics and Cosmology – Einstein's Legacy	70
Latin American Astronomy Summer School	70
Personnel Movements	71
Vacancy notice	71

Front Cover Picture: The Radio Galaxy Centaurus A  
This image (NGC 5128) was obtained by João Alves and colleagues using the WFI instrument mounted on the 2.2-m ESO telescope of La Silla. This composite colour image is a combination of five filters (U, B, V, R and H $\alpha$ ). The observations were reduced and combined by Benoît Vandame (ESO).