

18. 03. 83

• La Silla
• La Serena
• Santiago

EL MENSAJERO



ESO

No. 31 - March 1983

46 86

Latest News about the European Coordinating Facility for the Space Telescope

On the 23rd of February, a Memorandum of Agreement concerning the European Coordinating Facility for the Space Telescope was signed in Paris by the Director General of the European Space Agency (ESA), Mr. E. Quistgaard, and the Director General of the European Southern Observatory, Prof. L. Woltjer. The ceremony took place in the presence of the members of the ESA Council.

The aim of the agreement is to define the modalities of the cooperation between ESA and ESO for the operation of the ST/ECF, which will be established as a separate unit at ESO in Garching. The prime purpose of the establishment of the ST/ECF is to enhance the capabilities within Europe for the

scientific use of the Space Telescope and of the Space Telescope data archive.

To achieve this aim, the ST/ECF shall provide a convenient source of detailed knowledge in Europe of the Space Telescope and its associated instruments, ensure coordination of software developments for ST within Europe and with the ST Science Institute in the U.S., and contribute to the archiving, cataloguing and disseminating of ST data to European scientists. ESA and ESO will each provide seven persons towards the staffing of the ST/ECF. ESO will have the primary responsibility for the day-to-day functioning of the ST/ECF. It is expected that the ST/ECF will begin functioning in a limited way later this year.

Fiber Optics at ESO

Part I: Coupling of the CES with the 3.6 m Telescope Using a 40 m Fiber Link

D. Enard and G. Lund, ESO

During an experimental run made in November 1982, two entirely different and independent fiber optic systems were tested at the 3.6 m telescope. In the present article, a description is given of the first, which consisted essentially of an optical fiber link between the 3.6 m prime focus and the CES input slit.

In the next issue of the Messenger, the multiple-object fiber-spectroscopy system will be described.

Technical Description

The purpose of this project was to determine the usefulness of a long single fiber link between the 3.6 m prime focus and the CES spectrograph using a suitable adaptation of the output beam divergence together with an image slicer.

The essential components developed for this project were: the fiber link with its end connectors, the mechanical and optical guiding elements, provision for illuminating the fiber with calibration lamps, and the output beam optics coupled with an image slicer. A brief description of the above components is provided in the following paragraphs: