

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 organizing collaboration in astronomy . . . It is supported by six countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. It now operates the La Silla observatory in the Atacama desert, 600 km north of Santiago de Chile, at 2,400 m altitude. Seven telescopes with apertures up to 1.5 m are in operation; a 3.6 m telescope will become operational in 1976. The astronomical observations on La Silla are carried out by visiting astronomers—mainly from the member countries—and, to some extent, by ESO staff astronomers, often in collaboration with the former.

The ESO Headquarters in Europe will be located in Garching, near Munich, where early in 1979 all European activities will be centralized. The Office of the Director-General (mainly the ESO Administration) is at present in Hamburg and the scientific-technical group in Geneva, at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research), which since 1970 has been the host Organization of ESO's 3.6 m Telescope Project Division.

ESO has about 120 international staff members in Europe and Chile and about 150 local staff members in Santiago and on La Silla. In addition, there are a number of Fellows and Scientific Associates.

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Editor: Richard M. West
Technical Editor: Kurt Kjær

EUROPEAN
SOUTHERN OBSERVATORY
Alte Holstenstrasse 1
D-2050 HAMBURG 80
Fed. Rep. of Germany
Tel. (040) 721 30 01
Telex 2 17 856

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ALGUNOS RESUMENES

La sede principal europea de ESO en München

En la reunión efectuada el 2 de diciembre de 1975, el Consejo tomó importantes decisiones para el futuro de ESO.

El Consejo aceptó la generosa oferta de la República Federal de Alemania, de un terreno de 1,2 hectáreas y un edificio de 6.000 m² en Garching, cerca de München, para establecer ahí la sede principal de la Organización. En esta sede se juntarán todos los departamentos de ESO en Europa, los cuales están actualmente dispersos en Hamburgo y Ginebra.

Para asegurar el óptimo funcionamiento del Observatorio en La Silla, Chile, el Consejo autorizó al Director-General de crear un centro científico-técnico. Este centro también tomará medidas para desenvolver la coordinación del planeamiento de instrumentos a larga escala y de programas de observación con otros grandes proyectos astronómicos en los países miembros. Se espera que el nuevo edificio en Garching será terminado a fines de 1978.

1ª. serie de diapositivas de ESO disponible

ESO tiene el placer de anunciar las primeras fotografías tomadas desde el ESO 1 m telescopio Schmidt en Chile. Estas pueden ser obtenidas en forma de una serie de 20 diapositivas, 5 x 5 cm, en blanco y negro, con una pequeña descripción, mostrando algunos de los objetos más espectaculares y hermosos del hemisferio sur, incluyendo las Nubes Magellánicas, el complejo ETA Carina y cúmulo globular Omega Centauri.

El precio de estas magníficas diapositivas es de US\$ 6, correo normal o US\$

First ESO Slide Set Now Available!

The European Southern Observatory is happy to announce the first photographs from the ESO 1 m Schmidt telescope in Chile. They are available in the form of slide sets consisting of 20 5 x 5 cm, black-and-white slides with brief descriptions, and show some of the southern sky's most spectacular and beautiful objects, including the Magellanic Clouds, The Eta Carinae nebula and Omega Centauri.

The price of this magnificent slide set is Swiss francs 16.— (or the equivalent) for Europe, and US\$ 6.— by surface mail to all other countries, or US\$ 8.50 by airmail (to be paid in advance).

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Organización para el Personal Local, La Silla

El directorio de la «Asociación Única para el Personal Local» (AUPL) consta de los siguientes miembros:

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Ramón Huidobro (Vice-Presidente)
Rolando Veliz (Secretario)
Luis Aguila (Tesorero)
María Acosta
Germán González
José y Alfredo Rozas

LATEST NEWS

ESO Comet Rounds the Sun

Comet 1975n (also known as comet West) was found on three plates from the ESO 1 m Schmidt telescope, taken by brothers Oscar and Guido Pizarro. Early predictions by B. Marsden at the Smithsonian Observatory, Cambridge, Mass. USA, indicated that the comet could become a naked-eye object at the beginning of March 1976, just after perihelion passage on February 25.

Observations from New Zealand in early February showed that the comet was somewhat brighter than expected. However, comets are notoriously unpredictable and only observations after the perihelion can show whether 1975n survived the ordeal, when it passes just 30 million kilometres from the sun.

Infrared observations on February 3 show the comet to be very similar to comet 1973 XII (Kohoutek) with plenty of dust around the nucleus. A careful analysis of the available positional observations indicates that 1975n follows a very elongated, elliptical path with a period of about 15,000 years.