

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 eight countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. It operates the La Silla observatory in the Atacama desert, 600 km north of Santiago de Chile, at 2,400 m altitude, where fourteen optical telescopes with diameters up to 3.6 m and a 15-m sub-millimetre radio telescope (SEST) are now in operation. The 3.5-m New Technology Telescope (NTT) became operational in 1990, and a giant telescope (VLT=Very Large Telescope), consisting of four 8-m telescopes (equivalent aperture = 16 m) is under construction. Eight hundred scientists make proposals each year for the use of the telescopes at La Silla. The ESO Headquarters are located in Garching, near Munich, Germany. It is the scientific-technical and administrative centre of ESO where technical development programmes are carried out to provide the La Silla observatory with the most advanced instruments. There are also extensive facilities which enable the scientists to analyze their data. In Europe ESO employs about 150 international Staff members, Fellows and Associates; at La Silla about 40 and, in addition, 150 local Staff members.

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EUROPEAN  
SOUTHERN OBSERVATORY  
Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2  
D-8046 Garching bei München  
Germany  
Tel. (089) 32006-0  
Telex 5-28282-0 eo d  
Telefax: (089) 3202362  
Bitnet address: IPS@DGAESO51

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30 papers and posters were presented. Proceedings of the scientific session will be published during the course of this year.

Next year the Data Analysis Workshop is expected to take place in May 1992 with the emphasis on reduction procedures for spectroscopic data.

#### 4. MIDAS Hot-Line Service

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- EARN: MIDAS@DGAESO51
- SPAN: ESO::MIDAS

- EUNET: midas@eso.uucp
- Internet: midas@eso.org
- FAX.: +49-89-3202362, attn.: MIDAS HOT-LINE
- Tlx.: 528 282 22 eso d, attn.: MIDAS HOT-LINE
- Tel.: +49-89-32006-456

Users are also invited to send us any suggestions or comments. Although we do provide a telephone service we ask users to use it in urgent cases only. To make it easier for us to process the requests properly we ask you, when possible, to submit requests in written form either through electronic networks, telefax or telex.

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