

some kind of EC/ESO collaboration in this field.

Finally, in view of the present UN embargo, the question of support to as-

tronomers within the ESO C&E Programme to astronomers in Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has been the subject of some discussions. In its

meeting on June 2–3, Council decided not to consider scientists from Serbia and Montenegro under the ESO C&E Programme.

## The ESO-Portugal Cooperation

When Portugal and ESO signed an Agreement for cooperation in astronomy in 1990, cf. *The Messenger* 61, p. 1, the stated, common goal was to contribute to the rapid and efficient build-up of astronomical resources in this country. After a transition period, the entry of Portugal into ESO is planned to take place within the next decade. Now, three years later, it is gratifying to see that the number of Portuguese astronomers as well as the diversity and complexity of their research programmes is steadily increasing.

Under the terms of this bilateral Agreement, Portugal will provide a yearly increasing amount of support to its still relatively small astronomical community, hereby helping institutes and individuals to establish themselves nationally as well as internationally. This support is given by the Ministry of Science and Technology, through the Junta Nacional de Investigação Científica e Tecnológica (JNICT), the Science Research Council of Portugal. In practice, the available funds are allocated after a competitive application procedure and by recommendation of an Astronomy Panel, appointed by the Portuguese Secretary of State for Science and Technology. The Panel also includes two representatives of ESO.

This Panel has just met in Lisbon at the Headquarters of JNICT on May 24, 1993, to make its recommendations for the distribution of money from the 1993 budget, the third year since the start of this programme. For the current year, the amount of support available corresponds to 70% of what Portugal's contribution to ESO would have been, had the country already become a member. The sum to be allocated corresponded to almost 1 million DM.

Despite the still limited size of the Portuguese astronomical community, there were a considerable number of applications, and the Panel spent more than eleven busy working hours to consider their individual merits. The themes ranged from laboratory studies of the surface chemistry of the icy moons in the outer solar system, multi-band observations of young stellar objects, the properties of stellar clusters in the inner galactic bulge, to observational and theoretical aspects of gravitation. Many

of the proposals were excellent and bear witness to the recent progress in Portuguese astronomy. In the end it was decided to recommend to JNICT that most of them be supported.

The Panel also noted with satisfaction that several Portuguese post-doctoral fellows are expected to return later this year to their home institutes after having obtained Master and PhD degrees at the end of prolonged stays at foreign universities. They will form the spearhead of the new generation of scientists who will carry Portuguese astronomy into a new age.

It is now crucial that they be offered the possibility to continue their work in their home country and the Panel, at the end of its meeting and having discussed in some detail the long-term aspects of this programme, therefore formulated the following recommendation: "Taking into account that it is of decisive importance for the success of the Portugal/ESO accord that the young PhDs in the area of astronomy be able to continue their research in Portugal, the Panel recommends that a substantial part of the funds allocated for the astronomy programme and not attributed be reserved for Post-doc positions in this area."

The day following the Panel discussions, the Portugal/ESO Committee (T. Lago and F. Bello from Portugal; P. Shaver and R. West from ESO) which was set up to monitor the developments within the Portugal/ESO Agreement met to evaluate the progress so far. The Committee concluded that, following a period of initial consolidation during which an important part of the funds available under this programme has been used to build up the infrastructure at the astronomical institutes in Portugal, it now appears that, as expected, individual projects will play an increasingly prominent role, as more and more young astronomers enter into the field.

The Committee noted with great interest and enthusiasm the current plans to establish a Portuguese national observatory on the island of Madeira. The projected observatory, which will also be open for international participation, is considered an undertaking of national importance and is now under discussion at government level. If all goes well, a final decision may be possible already within the current year and the construction of the infrastructure could then start in 1994.

*The Editor*

### FELLOWSHIP ON LA SILLA

A post-doctoral fellowship is offered on La Silla starting at the beginning of 1994. The position is open to a young astronomer with an interest in observational astronomy. The ESO fellowships are granted for a period of one year, normally renewed for a second and exceptionally for a third year.

The successful applicant will be required to spend 50% of his/her time doing support activities and 50% of the time on research.

Applicants normally should have a doctorate awarded in recent years. Applications should be submitted to ESO **not later than 15 September 1993**. Applicants will be notified by October 1993. The ESO Fellowship Application Form should be used and be accompanied by a list of publications. In addition, three letters of recommendation should be obtained from persons familiar with the scientific work of the applicant. These letters should reach ESO **not later than 15 September 1993**.

The research interests of the members of the staff in the Astronomy Support Department include low-mass star formation, formation and evolution of massive stars and starbursts, post-AGB stellar evolution and planetary nebulae, supernovae, active nuclei, high redshift galaxies and galaxy clusters. Staff members and senior fellows act as co-supervisors for students of European universities that spend up to 2 years on La Silla working towards a doctoral dissertation.

Enquiries, requests for application forms and applications should be addressed to:  
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