By the time the present issue of *The Messenger* is out, the internal workshop described below will have taken place at ESO. An extensive summary of the workshop will appear in a forthcoming issue.

ESO Internal Workshop on Forecasting Astronomical Observing Conditions

Garching, 29–30 May, 1997

Summary

It is now understood that most future ground-based observatories will make use of flexible scheduling tools to select the observing mode best adapted to the observing conditions.

ESO has been conducting a wide survey of existing and potential forecasting techniques, and several feasibility studies are close to completion. It is thus time to prepare the specifications of the operational tools and services to be developed for the VLT.

Note: information is also available on the WEB at: ftp://dimm2.hq.eso.org/public_html/seminar/predict/agenda.html

Preliminary Agenda:

SESSION I: STATISTICAL METHODS

• "Performance analysis of multivariate and Neural Network methods for the prediction of Temperature and Seeing at Astronomical Observatories" (M. Sarazin, ESO)
• "The VLT Enclosure and Mirror Temperature Control System: Methodology and Operational Developments" (L. Noethe, ESO)

SESSION II: SATELLITE IMAGERY

• "Evaluation of Satellite Derived Precipitable Water Vapour Measurements – a Comparison with Antofagasta Radiosonde and Paranal Ground PWV Monitor Measurements" (A. Erasmus, U. of Northern Colorado)
• "Development and Evaluation of an Improved Methodology for Forecasting Cirrus Cloud Cover and PWV above Paranal and La Silla" (A. Erasmus, U. of Northern Colorado)

SESSION III: NUMERICAL MODELLING

• "Comparison of ECMWF and ESO database over the period 89–93" (R. Deidda, CRS4 Cagliari)
• "Results of a Limited Area Model on Some Test Cases" (Pr. A. Speranza, CRS4 Cagliari)
• "Post-processing ECMWF forecast – Kalman Filtering Results at Paranal " (M. Maroccu, CRS4 Cagliari)
• "The basis for predicting optical turbulence from mesoscale meteorological modelling" (J. Vernin, U. of Nice)
• "Modelling optical turbulence over Paranal with Meso-nh: the first results" (E. Masciadri, U. of Nice)

SESSION IV: OPERATIONAL FORECAST SYSTEMS

• "The ECMWF data assimilation and operational forecast scheme: a user guide" (K. Fielding, ECMWF Reading, to be confirmed)
• "Proposal for a system of operational forecast finalised to meteorological prediction for ESO observatories in Chile" (Pr. A. Speranza, CRS4 Cagliari)
* "Proposal for an operational forecast of cloud cover and precipitable water vapour over ESO observatories in Chile" (A. Erasmus, U. of Northern Colorado)

SESSION V: DISCUSSION

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

ESO/OSA Topical Meeting

"Astronomy with Adaptive Optics – Present Results and Future Programs"

September 11–17, 1998
Garching bei München, Germany

For more information on this meeting, please consult the ESO Web pages at http://www.eso.org/aot . There will be the electronic subscription forms, as well as travel/lodging information/reservation, and paper preparation instructions.
Otherwise e-mail at ezuffane@eso.org

PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS

International Staff (1 April – 30 June 1997

ARRIVALS

EUROPE

KROKER, Harald (D), Fellow
KÜRSTER, Martin (D), Astronomer
WIDL, Alfred (D), Accounting Clerk
BENNER, Jens (D), Student
PIRZKAL, Norbert (F), Scientific Systems Analyst/Programmer
PRIMAS, Francesca (I), Fellow

CHILE

PIZZELLA, Alessandro (I), Fellow

DEPARTURES

EUROPE

ADORF, Hans-Martin (D), Scientific Systems Analyst/Programmer
FORSTMANN, Pierre (F), Software Engineer
BÄUMER, Volker (D), Student
MANIL, Emmanuel (F), System Engineer
ANDERSEN, Torben (DK), Senior Systems Analyst

CHILE

BOUCHET, Patrice (F), Infrared Astronomer
REIPURTH, Bo (DK), Astronomer

Local Staff (1 April – 30 June 1997)

ARRIVALS

BAUERLE, Mary (RCH), Executive Bilingual Secretary
URRUTIA, Christián (RCH), Human Interface Programmer
CARVAJAL, Alfredo (RCH), Procurement Officer
VALDÉS, Rafael (RCH), Instruments Operator
DE CASTRO, Rodrigo (RCH), Public Relations Officer
KIEKEBUSCH, Mario (RCH), Informatics Engineer
BUGUEÑO, Erich (RCH), Senior Mechan. Technician
OSORIO, Juan (RCH), Electrical Engineer
PILLEUX, Mauricio (RCH), Mechanical Engineer

DEPARTURES

MIRANDA, Jorge (RCH), Night Assistant
ALVAREZ, Alberto (RCH), Night Assistant
DONOSO, Reinaldo (RCH), Mech. Maint.
CARRASCO, Marcelo (RCH), Informatics Engineer
MOLKENBUHR, Mariam (RCH), Secretary

ESO Fellowship Programme 1998/99

The European Southern Observatory (ESO) awards up to six postdoctoral fellowships tenable at the ESO Headquarters, located in Garching near Munich, and up to three postdoctoral fellowships tenable at ESO's Astronomy Centre in Santiago, Chile.

ESO facilities include the La Silla Observatory in Chile, the VLT Observatory on Cerro Paranal, and the astronomical centres in Garching and Santiago. At La Silla, ESO operates eight optical telescopes with apertures in the range from 0.9 m to 3.6 m, the 15-m SEST millimetre radio telescope, and smaller instruments. First light for the first telescope of the Very Large Telescope (VLT) consisting of four 8-m telescopes is expected in the first quarter 1998. Both the ESO Headquarters and the Astronomy Centre in Santiago offer extensive computing facilities, libraries and other infrastructure for research support. The Space Telescope European Co-ordinating Facility (ST-ECF), located in the ESO Headquarters building, offers the opportunity for collaborations. In the Munich area, several Max-Planck Institutes and the University Observatory have major programmes in astronomy and astrophysics and provide further opportunities for joint programmes. In Chile, astronomers