

Joint Committee Between ESO and the Government of Chile for the Development of Astronomy in Chile

In accordance with Article Nine of the interpretative, supplementary and amending agreement to the "Convention between the Government of Chile and the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere for the Establishment of an Astronomical Observatory in Chile", a Joint Committee has been constituted, on 13 March 1998, to co-operate directly in programmes for training young scientists, for engineers and technologists, and for equipment in general. The founding document was officially signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Mr. José Miguel Insulza S., and the ESO Director General, Prof. R. Giacconi.

The membership of this Committee consists of three representatives of the Government of Chile, the Director of "Política Especial", Ambassador R. González, the Chairman of the Presidential Commission for scientific matters, Dr. C. Teitelboim, and the Australian Astronomer Dr. K. Freeman, and three representatives of ESO, the Associate Director for Science, Dr. J. Bergeron, the Director of the Paranal Observatory, Dr. M. Tarenghi, and the ESO Representative in Chile, D. Hofstadt.

To foster scientific and technical co-operation between ESO and Chile, ESO will provide and administrate funds allocated for the development of astronomy and related technologies in Chile. The Joint Committee has the responsibility to define the framework of the co-operation, and to evaluate and select the programmes which will be financed by these funds.

Prior to the first meeting of the Joint Committee, extensive consultation took place between the Chilean astronomers and Dr. K. Freeman. The discussions during the meeting were very positive, and unanimous decisions were easily reached. On 13 March 1998, the Joint Committee agreed to make an announcement of opportunities for the six programmes summarised below:



- **Creation of new astronomical research groups.** To help Chilean Academic Institutions in the creation of an astronomical group, ESO will share with the selected Academic Institution the costs of hiring a full professor for a two-year period and two associate professors for a one-year period. After those terms have expired, the Academic Institution will take over the established programme.

- **Complementary funding for post-doctoral Astronomy programmes.** The goal of this programme is to make post-doctoral positions at Chilean Academic Institutions competitive at the international level.

- **Strengthening of already established astronomical research groups.** To this end, ESO will finance two new posts for full or associate professors for a three-year period. This term may be extended to a five-year period. After those terms have expired, the hosting Aca-

demical Institutions will commit themselves to maintain these new positions.

- **Training of professors for the teaching of astronomy in high schools.** Special attention will be given to programmes which are already sponsored, and ESO will share their funding.

- **Research infrastructure.** The goal of this programme is to strengthen the research capacities of academic institutions.

- **Development of systems and instruments.** Chilean engineers and technicians will be invited to participate, through public tenders, in the development of systems and instruments for the VLT telescope units.

The total level of funding available in 1998 for this ESO-Chile co-operation programme is DM 660,000. Additional programmes by ESO (for DM 340,000 in 1998) include social help to local communities, education programmes in high schools and university scholarships.

ESO Imaging Survey: Update on EIS-deep and the Hubble Deep Field South

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The second part of EIS (deep), as originally recommended by the EIS Working Group, envisioned the observation of a 15×15 arcmin region centred on the HST

Hubble Deep Field South (HDF-S), in six passbands (the EIS proposals for Periods 59, 60, and 61 can be found at [http://www.eso.org/research/sci-prog/eis/eis_](http://www.eso.org/research/sci-prog/eis/eis_obs.html)

[obs.html](http://www.eso.org/research/sci-prog/eis/eis_obs.html)). The programme was split between Periods 61 and 62, and 7 SUSI2 and 6 SOFI nights in Period 61 have already been allocated. However, with the