

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 organising collaboration in astronomy ..." It is supported by eight countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. ESO operates at two sites. 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 submillimetre radio telescope (SEST) are now in operation. In addition, ESO is in the process of building the Very Large Telescope (VLT) on Paranal, a 2,600 m high mountain approximately 130 km south of Antofagasta, in the driest part of the Atacama desert. The VLT consists of four 8.2-metre and several 1.8-metre telescopes. These telescopes can also be used in combination as a giant interferometer (VLTi). "First Light" of the first 8.2-metre telescope (UT1) occurred in May 1998. UT1 will be available on a regular basis for astronomical observations from April 1999 on. Over 1000 proposals are made each year for the use of the ESO telescopes. The ESO Headquarters are located in Garching, near Munich, Germany. This is the scientific, technical and administrative centre of ESO where technical development programmes are carried out to provide the La Silla and Paranal observatories with the most advanced instruments. There are also extensive astronomical data facilities. In Europe ESO employs about 200 international staff members, Fellows and Associates; in Chile about 70 and, in addition, about 130 local staff members.

The ESO MESSENGER is published four times a year: normally in March, June, September and December. ESO also publishes Conference Proceedings, Preprints, Technical Notes and other material connected to its activities. Press Releases inform the media about particular events. For further information, contact the ESO Education and Public Relations Department at the following address:

EUROPEAN  
SOUTHERN OBSERVATORY  
Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2  
D-85748 Garching bei München  
Germany  
Tel. (089) 320 06-0  
Telefax (089) 3202362  
ips@eso.org (internet)  
URL: <http://www.eso.org>

The ESO Messenger:  
Editor: Marie-Hélène Demoulin  
Technical editor: Kurt Kjär

Printed by  
Druckbetriebe Lettner KG  
Georgenstr. 84  
D-80799 München  
Germany

ISSN 0722-6691

## S

- J. Sanner, M. Geffert, H. Böhnhardt, A. Fiedler: Astrometry of Comet 46P/Wirtanen at ESO: Preparation of ESA's ROSETTA Mission **92**, 33  
M. Sarazin: Astroclimate During Science Verification **93**, 2  
P.A. Shaver and R.S. Booth: The Large Southern Array **91**, 26  
D. Silva: The NTT Service Observing Programme: Period 60. Summary and Lessons Learned **92**, 20  
S. Stanghellini and A. Michel: Performance of the First Two Beryllium Secondary Mirrors of the VLT **94**, 10  
M. Stenzel: 3.6-m Telescope Passes Major Upgrade Milestones **93**, 17

## T

- M. Tarengi, P. Gary, J. Spyromilio, R. Gilmozzi: The First Steps of UT1 **93**, 4  
A. R. Tieftrunk, S. T. Megeath: Star Formation Toward the "Quiescent" Core NGC 6334 I(N) **93**, 36

## U

- M.-H. Ulrich: Observations with Adaptive Optics: Getting There **94**, 32

## V

- M.-P. Véron, G. Meylan: 6th ESO/OHP Summer School in Astrophysical Observations **93**, 43

## W

- R.M. West: VLT First Light and the Public **92**, 4

## Contents

I. Appenzeller, K. Fricke, W. Fürtig, W. Gässler, R. Häfner, R. Harke, H.-J. Hess, W. Hummel, P. Jürgens, R.-P. Kudritzki, K.-H. Mantel, W. Meisl, B. Muschelok, H. Nicklas, G. Rupprecht, W. Seifert, O. Stahl, T. Szeifert, K. Tarantik: Successful Commissioning of FORS1 – the First Optical Instrument on the VLT .....	1
A. Moorwood, J.-G. Cuby, P. Biereichel, J. Brynnel, B. Delabre, N. Devillard, A. Van Dijsseldonk, G. Finger, H. Gemperlein, R. Gilmozzi, T. Herlin, G. Huster, J. Knudstrup, C. Lidman, J.-L. Lizon, H. Mehrgan, M. Meyer, G. Nicolini, M. Petr, J. Spyromilio, J. Stegmeier: ISAAC Sees First Light at the VLT .....	7
News from VLT Science Verification .....	9

### TELESCOPES AND INSTRUMENTATION

S. Stanghellini and A. Michel: Performance of the First Two Beryllium Secondary Mirrors of the VLT .....	10
--	----

### THE LA SILLA NEWS PAGE

O.R. Hainaut: News from the NTT .....	11
T. Augusteijn: 2.2-m Telescope Upgrade: a Status Report .....	12
M. Kürster: Performance of CES 3.6-m Fibre Link and Image Slicers .....	12

### NEWS FROM THE LSA

A. Otárola, G. Delgado, R. Booth, V. Belitsky, D. Urbain, S. Radford, D. Hofstadt, L. Nyman, P. Shaver, R. Hills: European Site Testing at Chajnantor ..	13
--	----

### REPORTS FROM OBSERVERS

H. Böhringer, L. Guzzo, C.A. Collins, D.M. Neumann, S. Schindler, P. Schuecker, R. Cruddace, S. Degrandi, G. Chincarini, A.C. Edge, H.T. Macgillivray, P. Shaver, G. Vettolani, W. Voges: Probing the Cosmic Large-Scale Structure with the REFLEX Cluster Survey: Profile of an ESO Key Programme .....	21
R.P. Mignani, S. Mereghetti, C. Gouiffes And P. A. Caraveo: Timing, Spectroscopy and Multicolour Imaging of the Candidate Optical Counterpart of PSR B1509–58 .....	25
F. Comerón, R. Neuhauser, A.A. Kaas: The First X-ray Emitting Brown Dwarf Call for Ideas for Future Public Imaging Surveys .....	31
Atlas of the Northern Sky .....	31

### OTHER ASTRONOMICAL NEWS

M.-H. Ulrich: Observations with Adaptive Optics: Getting There .....	32
C. Madsen: Award for the ESO VLT Project .....	38

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

ESO Director General to Become President of AUI .....	39
First Announcement of the ESO Workshop on "Black Holes in Binaries and Galactic Nuclei – Their Diagnostics, Demography, and Formation" .....	39
VLT Opening Symposium .....	40
Personnel Movements (1 October – 31 December 1998) .....	41
List of Scientific Preprints (September–December 1998) .....	41
ESO Workshop Proceedings Still Available .....	41

MESSENGER INDEX 1998 (Nos. 91–94) .....	42
---	----