

THE SAMPO PROJECT



Photo: Pierre Kervella, (DESPA, Observatoire de Meudon and ESO-Garching)

BACKGROUND AND GOALS

The Sampo project is a three-year (2005-2007) project assessing the future needs of the ESO user community in the areas of data reduction and analysis. The project will evaluate requirements and technologies as well as design and create pilot software products.

The project will be divided into several sub-projects, with typical durations of 6 months to one year, which will address specific questions. The ultimate aim of Sampo is to advise ESO of the options and approaches that may be needed to allow the organisation to effectively tackle future data processing challenges.

The first sub-project, completed in October 2005, was PyMidas, a Python interface to the ESO-Midas astronomical data processing system. The PyMidas software can be downloaded from <http://www.eso.org/sampo/pymidas>.

The two main projects for the year 2005-2006 are to

- investigate how desktop data analysis environments may be effectively interfaced to the Virtual Observatory
- investigate options for allowing more flexible execution of ESO pipeline recipes within the context of a container/component architecture

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

- CSC, the Finnish IT Center for Science
- University of Helsinki, Department of Astronomy
- Space Systems Finland Ltd.
- ESO - European Southern Observatory

In total, over 18 person-years will be contributed to the project. The project has two advisory bodies of astronomers, one within ESO and another in Finland. Members of the project participate in the Opticon N3.6 network on Future Astronomical Software Environments.

The Sampo project is an in-kind contribution to Finland's joining fee to ESO. The project is funded by Finland (the Ministry of Education and the National Technology Agency), but managed by ESO.

MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.eso.org/sampo/>

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SAMPO TEAM (2005)

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