

Title: Getting the SPHERE rolling

Date: Wednesday 13th May 2015

Venue: Old Auditorium (Telescopium) with Markus Kasper

One year ago, in the evening of May 4th, 2014, SPHERE received its first sky photons and the XAO ran closed-loop on sky for the first time. Since then, SPHERE went through four commissioning runs and science verification by end of 2014, and it is now used for open and guaranteed time observations. With three focal plane instruments and nine observing modes, SPHERE is a very versatile instrument powered by an XAO system, which provides 90% Strehl ratio in H-band and still diffraction-limited images in the visible region of the spectrum. I will present an overview of SPHERE and its observing modes, select results from commissioning runs, and comment on the limitations imposed by the current deformable mirror and Shack-Hartmann wavefront sensor, and our plans for the near future.