

News from the 2p2 Team

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Service Mode

The percentage of time allocated to service mode observations at the 2.2-m is increasing yet again in Period 69. We would just like to take this opportunity to remind the PIs of upcoming Service Mode programmes: please read the webpage describing our Standard Calibrations before submitting your Phase 2 package. It is different to the Standard Calibrations performed at the VLT. We now have 2xU filters, 2xB filters and 2xI filters but only one of each is part of the Standard Calibrations. Please check: <http://www.lis.eso.org/lasilla/Telescopes/2p2T/E2p2M/WFI/CalPlan/StdCal/> to learn which of the filters is covered in the standard calibrations.

We also have a "Service Mode Tips" page at: <http://www.lis.eso.org/lasilla/Telescopes/2p2T/E2p2M/WFI/SMTips.html>

with suggestions on how best to organise your OBs and observing programmes in order to maximise the chances of them being executed.

New Filters

We have recently mounted a new B filter in the ESO/MPG Wide Field Imager. This filter has superseded the B/99 filter as part of the Standard Calibrations for service mode programmes. Service Mode PIs note: if you wish to use the B/99 filter for your programme, you can no longer request Standard Calibrations in your README file.

The zeropoints for this filter and for the new U360 filter can be found at: <http://www.lis.eso.org/lasilla/Telescopes/2p2T/E2p2M/WFI/zero-points/> and the transmission curves at: <http://www.lis.eso.org/lasilla/Telescopes/2p2T/E2p2M/WFI/filters/>

NGAS

To deal with the vast quantities of data that will be produced by ALMA and the new instruments to arrive at the VLT, the NGAS (Next Generation Archive System) project was initiated by ESO's Data Management Division. In this system, magnetic disks are used to store and transport the data between Chile and Garching, rather than the lower capacity CDs, DLTs and DVDs that are currently used.

Since the ESO/MPG Wide Field Imager already produces large amounts of data in a short period of time, the 2.2-m was chosen as the test bench for the implementation of the NGAS. We have been using this system since July 2001 with the final commissioning and acceptance of NGAS at the 2.2-m performed in December 2001. In the second half of 2001, the 2p2 team was sending both magnetic disks and DLTs to Garching for archiving; however, as of January 2002, only the magnetic disks of the NGAS now make the journey.

To learn more about the NGAS system please visit: <http://arcdev.eso.org/NGAST/>

ESO 1.52-m Telescope

Fans of the Boller and Chivens spectrograph may be relieved (or perhaps sorry) to see the old HP1000 interface go and the new gui interface come online. The new system is more user-friendly and as of October 2001 has seen the end of an era as the big pizza-wheels (magnetic tapes) are no longer threaded – all data are now directly written to DAT tape. Never fear though – the HP1000 is still on hand, sleeping in the background, and the pizzas are ready to spin again if the new technology fails.

October 2001 also saw the end of the old REOSC control unit (which controlled dome movement and the wind-screens) in the dome. For those of us who don't speak French, we can now read and understand the positions of the switches on the new control panel.

Danish 1.54-m Telescope

Service Mission

In November 2001, and in collaboration with a team from Copenhagen University Observatory, a complete maintenance and upgrade of DFOSC and the systems at the Danish 1.54-m telescope was undertaken.

The full report can be found at: <http://www.lis.eso.org/lasilla/Telescopes/2p2T/D1p5M/RepsFinal/#dfosc>

We would like to thank the team from Copenhagen University Observatory who came out to La Silla to work on this with us: Anton Norup Soerensen, Morten Liborius Jensen and Jens Klougart.



A view of the Residencia at sunset,

as seen from the Telescope Platform at the top of Paranal. A narrow path connects the top with the Residencia and invites to a nice 45-min downhill walk! Photo: Massimo Tarenghi.