

OPTICON

The Optical Infrared Co-ordination Network for
Astronomy.

Overview

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OPTICON Summary by John Davies.



OPTICON

The European Union's Sixth Framework programme (FP6) is a 5 year, 13 billion Euro programme designed to foster European collaboration in Science and Technology. It runs from 2004-2009. Much of the programme is 'top-down' and in categories defined by EU-wide priorities (eg sustainable transport, climate change)

The Optical Infrared Co-ordination Network for Astronomy (OPTICON) is one 'bottom up' activity funded under this programme. Its radio astronomy counterpart, Radionet, was also funded. The European ELT design study has applied to a different RFP and is now being evaluated.

Outcome OPTICON: 19.2MEuro, Radionet:12 MEuro.



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The OPTICON ‘Integrated Infrastructure Initiative’

- Networking via ~10 working groups similar to this meeting covering ELTs, Key Technologies, Software, Interferometry, AVO etc (3 MEuro)
- Transnational access to 18 Night-time and 4 solar telescopes. (5.5 MEuro)
- Joint Research Projects in Technology. (10 MEuro) + matched national funds.



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OPTICON I3 Networking

- Structuring European Astronomy (J.Davies). This includes ELT science working group (Hook), AVO/Interoperability (Quinn), HTRA (Spruit), UV-Net (Gomez de Castro) , Key Technologies (Cunningham) , Software (Grosbol)
- Interferometry working group (A. Quirrenbach, Andrzej Niedzielski, Romain Petrov, Jean Surdej)
- Fellowships and large scale projects (J-LPuget/M. Kessler)
- Telescope Directors Forum (J .Davies)
- NEON Research Experience (M. Denefeld, IAP)
- Structuring the ENO -ORM + Izana- (J Burgos et al)
- Round tables with Radionet, ALMA, NGST etc



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OPTICON TELESCOPE NETWORK

- Develop common strategy to rationalise Europe's many 2-4m telescopes.
- Investigate role of 2-4 m telescopes in research enhancement.
- Use EU funds to promote access to European telescopes by offering T & S to users and fixed fees to telescope operators who Europeanise their telescopes

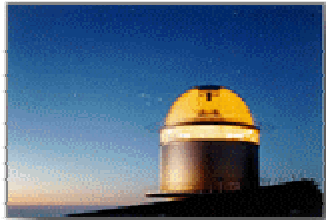


• Offers 997 nights + 228 days over 5 years

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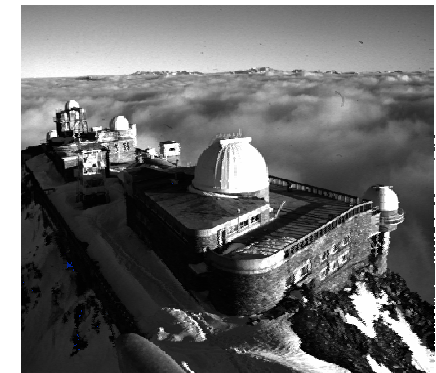


The Access programme.



Anglo Australian Observatory	3.5m Telescope
Anglo Australian Observatory	Schmidt Telescope
Centro Astronomico Hispano Aleman	3.5m Telescope
Centro Astronomico Hispano Aleman	2.2m Telescope
Canada France Hawaii Telescope	3.5m Telescope
La Silla	3.6m Telescope
La Silla	3.5m Telescope
La Silla	2.2m Telescope
Isaac Newton Group	4.2m Telescope
Isaac Newton Group	2.5m Telescope
UK Infrared Telescope	3.8m Telescope
TNG	3.5m Telescope
Nordic Optical Telescope	2.5m Telescope
Aristarchos	2.5m Telescope
Observatoire Haute Provence	1.9m Telescope
Telescope Bernard Lyot	2m Telescope
Telescopio Carlos Sancez	1.52m Telescope
THEMIS	Solar Telescope
Swedish Solar Telescope	Solar Telescope
Vacuum Tower Telescope	Solar Telescope
Liverpool Telescope	2m Telescope
Dutch Open Telescope	Solar Telescope

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Joint Research Projects

- VPH Gratings – F. Zerbi
- Optical Detectors for HTRA – S. Wagner
- Fast Detectors for AO – P. Feautrier
- Smart Focal Planes – C. Cunningham
- Interferometry – A. Chelli
- Adaptive Optics. – N. Hubin



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