

Editorial

Special Letters Edition: First Science with the VLT

Garching, Leiden and Paris, August 21, 1998

The Board of Directors of Astronomy and Astrophysics recognizes the great opportunity offered by the coming-on-line of ESO's Very Large Telescope. Science Verification observations with the Unit Telescope 1 and the VLT Test Camera (see the ESO Messenger No.92, p.5, for the planned observations for Science Verification) have been taken during the last two weeks of August 1998, and the raw and calibration data, as well as the calibrated images will become available to the ESO community not later than September 30, 1998; see the ESO Web pages for more and updated information. The Science Verification observations will include deep imaging of the Hubble Deep Field South that will become available worldwide at the same time.

The Editors of Astronomy and Astrophysics recognize the importance of this event and plan to release a Special Letters Edition, probably in the March 1st issue of Astronomy and Astrophysics, on "First Science with the VLT", with letters based on these Science Verification data. These Letters will be handled in the standard way, except that the strict page limit for Letters may be relaxed for this Edition. Authors are invited to send their manuscripts on this topic to the Letters Office, preferentially electronically (see Editorial in A&A 337, E1); manuscripts received before November 30, 1998, will be guaranteed to be handled sufficiently quickly to be included in the Special Edition, provided the referee assessment is positive and requested revisions arrive on time. Please indicate in a cover letter that the manuscript is intended for the Special Edition.

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Editors