

Editorial

**Special Letters Edition:
First Science with FORS I and ISAAC at the VLT**

Garching, Leiden and Paris, May 12, 1999

The Board of Directors of Astronomy and Astrophysics recognizes the great opportunity offered by the start of operating ESO's Very Large Telescope. The first two science instruments, FORS I and ISAAC, have been successfully commissioned, and spectacular data have been taken and made known to the public and scientific community via press releases. ESO starts now to make part of the commissioning data and the Science Verification data of these two instruments available to the ESO user community, in terms of raw and calibration data, as well as calibrated data. See the ESO Web pages for more and updated information (<http://www.eso.org/science/sv>)

The Editors of Astronomy and Astrophysics recognize the importance of this event and – following a first Special Letters Edition on “First Science with the VLT”, which was based on Science Verification data with the Test Camera and published in the March I, 1999 issue – plan to release a second Special Letters Edition on “First Science with FORS I and ISAAC at the VLT”, with Letters based on the above mentioned data, and data taken in the early phase of regular VLT observations; the intended publication date is December 1. 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 August 15, 1999, 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