

ESO/Chile Committee meeting - June 19, 2006

Minutes

Participants: L. Campusano, C. Cesarsky (ESO DG), W. Gieren, G. Mathys, R. Mendez, F. Mirabel, M. T. Ruiz

The DG opens the meeting reminding the participants that its primary purpose is the discussion of the Public Surveys. J. Melnick and D. Minniti cannot attend the meeting due to date conflicts with a VISTA Public Survey Panel meeting. L. Campusano informs that H. Quintana and M. Rubio are not able to attend the meeting either.

The following information is exchanged about the Public Surveys and the access of the Chilean community to observing time on VST and VISTA:

- The Chilean community has agreed to devote up to 50% of its reserved time on VISTA to the Public Survey of D. Minniti, if the latter is approved. At least 50% of the Chilean time on VISTA should go to normal programmes.
- The Chilean community missed the deadline for submission of proposals for VST Public Surveys. Two Large Programme proposals were submitted for P78 due to a misunderstanding. They have not been evaluated by the OPC. The proposers are invited to resubmit them, unchanged or updated, when VST is offered to the community.
- Following the recommendation of the STC that ESO takes every possible step to accelerate the execution of the KIDS Public Survey, and possibly to expand it, the Chilean community has committed to devote 10% of its reserved time to this survey, independent of the participation of Chilean astronomers. This percentage may not be final. Upon recommendation of the DG, the Chilean community may reconsider this commitment, and consider the possible participation of Chilean astronomers in KIDS, with a view to gaining expertise for their community.
- While ESO may not accept Large Programmes (other than Public Surveys) for the VST, the possibility to introduce Long (Survey) Programmes will be studied.