



SIXTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME

European Commission

Community Research



Common Astronomy Software

An obvious way to bring about European collaboration is to bring together groups working on very similar problems to share common knowledge. OPTICON recognises that improvements in scientific productivity and efficiency can be realised from co-ordinated developments, especially of software. OPTICON created a common software group to consider activities such as wide field survey data processing, reduction of 3D-spectroscopic data cubes, optical interferometry and pipeline data processing. Two EU proposals spawned in part by this activity and endorsed by OPTICON have already gained substantial FP5 grants.

The Euro 3D RTN.

The Euro 3D Research Training Network is an initiative of 11 European institutes which lead in the technique of astronomical integral field (3D) spectroscopy (i.e. simultaneous spectroscopy of a two-dimensional area of the sky). The immediate aim of the network is to facilitate the exploitation of this 3D spectroscopy data.

3D datasets are large and experience in analysing them is largely confined to expert groups. 10 young researchers to be recruited by the network will be trained to apply 3D spectroscopy to astronomical problems in many areas. They will participate in the development of common-user software tools for extracting scientific results from 3D astronomical data.



A fundamental aspect of the RTN is the strong collaborative approach, involving exchange visits between the 11 partner institutes in 6 countries, workshops, a Winter School, and other coordinated training activities. The RTN is funded by the European Commission within the 5th Framework Programme. It is coordinated by the Astrophysikalisches Institut Potsdam.

ASTRO-WISE

The data volume produced by the new generation of wide field imagers such as ESO's VLT Survey Telescope (Chile) the VISTA telescope (Chile) and the Megacam at the CFHT (Hawaii) will be enormous. Both the archiving of the data volumes and the processing of the image data go beyond the capabilities of personal work stations. The ASTRO-WISE project links the data centres set up in several European countries to support the current generation of wide-field survey instruments.

ASTRO-WISE PARTNERS

- The Netherlands, lead partner in the construction of OmegaCAM.
- France, European partner in the Megacam project.
- Italy, lead partner in the construction of the VLT Survey Telescope and partner in OmegaCAM.
- Germany, partner in OmegaCAM
- ESO, who will operate VST and VISTA
- UK, lead partner in the construction of VISTA

The aim of ASTRO-WISE is to set up a common system for processing, analysing and disseminating wide field imaging data. Internally, the centres will be connected via a shared database, while externally data products can be served to the AVO/VO networks.

Our Mission

The OPTICON Infrastructure Coordination network brings together all of Western Europe's owners and operators of large observatories and data centres. Our goal is to identify opportunities where greater progress can be made by collaboration than by competition, and to take unified actions to achieve those agreed goals.

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OPTICON - The Optical
Infrared Coordination Network
for Astronomy

