La Silla
Paranal
Observatory

La Silla 2010+

Introducing a new Site Operations Paradigm

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JENAM, 20. April 2009

La Silla
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Background

- ESO's First Observatory Celebrates 40th Anniversary

- operates state-of-the-art facilities:
  Telescopes (3.6m, NTT)
  Instruments (HARPS)
  "VLT standard" (HW, SW, operation)

- hosts projects (MPG, REM, TAROT, Danish, Swiss)

- highly productive ground-based observatory

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Telescope Pressure

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Science Output: H vers Time

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Telescope Technical Downtime

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Telescope Weather Downtime

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Background

- VLT/VLTI operations/program highest priority
- ALMA construction/completion
- E-ELT development

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Background

110th ESO Council (June, 2007) resolution:

- maintain the La Silla site for the ESO community
- cost for ESO ~ 1.4M€
- “minimal” operation and support
- open for additional services

Scenario

- La Silla remains part of the LSP Observatory Division
- ESO staff maintains the site, provides infrastructure and supports science projects
- Operate NTT (EFOSC2 + visitor) and 3.6m (HARPS)
- Visitor Mode only
- No support astronomer on site
- External funding for projects, cost neutral for ESO

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LaSilla 2010+ Working Groups

La Silla 2010+
Site Operation Concept

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- Technical WG "Site Operation Implementation Plan"
  * based on realistic and accurate assumptions
  * represented by senior staff (12) from science operations, engineering, maintenance and logistics
- WG on "Human Resources"
  * staff and management representatives
  * "active" HR policy

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Staff and Budget

La Silla 2010+ Site Operation Model

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La Silla 2010+ Organization

October 2009

15.5 FTE "core positions"
+ 4 FTE 2.2m support
+ Contractors

External Services

- food, lodging, cleaning
- transport
- site security
- first aid station
- ...

Support across the Observatory

- medium and low-frequency maintenance activities according to defined planes (eg dome wheels, compressors, HBS, coating plants, cranes)
- optics support (cleaning and maintenance)
- IT and software support (network and computer hardware)
- safety engineer
- astronomers for QC and VA remote support
- emergencies

Success factors (up to now)

- facilities fully up-to-date

- "Big Brother" Paranal, embedded into ESO

- staff participation, dedication, excellence

- community acceptance