OPTICON

The Optical Infrared Co-ordination Network for Astronomy.

Trans-National Access Programme

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OPTICON is an Integrated Infrastructure Initiative (I3) funded by the FP6 programme.

The Vision

Develop a stronger community able to build and operate 21st Century facilities for Optical-IR Astronomy

The Contract

FP-6 Five year contract for 19,200,000 Euro + substantial national matching funds. Effective 1 January 2004 - 31 December 2008

- 6. JRAs (~11 Me + extra national funds)
- 22 Telescope Access Programme. (~5.5Me)
- 14 Networks (~3 Me incl Management)

- FP-7. !0,000,000 Euro contract starting 2009

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www.astro-opticon.org

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Amount of Access /

Country of origin of the User Group leader

409 observing periods

January 2004 – June 2005

Conclusion

- OPTICON has made real progress in co-ordination of Optical/IR astronomy across Europe.
- A large number of EU optical-IR-night-solar telescopes are open for new users
- EU wide collaborations in R & D have been established
- The Future for European Collaboration is bright.
- OPTICON is contributing to the ASTRONET ETSRC process for medium telescopes

Contacts

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Handouts, ELT brochure, overview paper etc can be downloaded from the web page.