

The CCAT News

The Cornell Caltech Atacama Telescope

July 2007 Issue 5

CCAT Partners Sign Agreement: 1st Board Meeting Held

All Five of the current partners in the CCAT Project have signed an Interim Consortium Agreement (Cornell, Caltech, U. Colorado, Canadian Consortium, UK Astronomy Technology Centre). Intended to be effective for about one year, the Agreement provides for completion of the full partnership agreement and securing funds to begin construction. The first Interim Board Meeting was held at U. Waterloo, Ontario on 19 July. Anneila Sargent of Caltech was elected Chair. Part of the session dealt with the approach to management of the Project and other issues addressed included partner aspirations and approaches for fund raising, the formation of a not-for-profit corporation, approaches to funding the next year of activities, and application to the Chilean Government for use of the Cerro Chajnantor site. The Board plans to meet quarterly, with in-person meetings every six months and telecons between these meetings. The participation of Board members with both administrative and scientific responsibility and establishing a process for joint decision making and project guidance represent a major step forward for CCAT.



The CCAT Interim Board



Cerro Chajnantor G. Gull Photo

Chajnantor Working Group Meets

Representatives from seven different telescope projects met to discuss issues regarding construction and operation in the Atacama. The meeting was also attended by representatives from CONICYT, the U. of Chile, and AUI. Issues discussed included safety, shared infrastructure, communications, electrical power sources, and protocol. Over the two day meeting there was excellent opportunities for project personnel to meet and discuss collaborative approaches to safe and cost effective sharing of resources and approaches to

to issues in operating in the extreme environment of the Atacama region. Power in particular is problematic as the reduction in shipping of natural gas from Argentina has made both gas turbine generation and procurement of line power potential non starters. CCAT performed a brief alternative power study at the request of CONICYT. The results at this time favor diesel generation as the baseline plan for CCAT, though a long term comprehensive solution for the Atacama Science Preserve may develop.

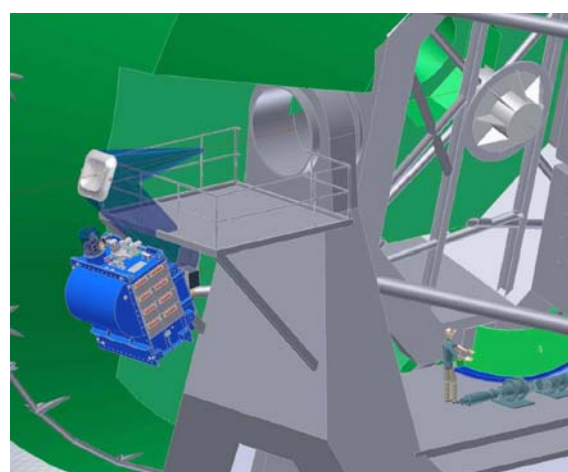
Science Meeting at U. Waterloo

A meeting to discuss CCAT science was held at the U. of Waterloo on 18 July. 37 Scientists from 15 different institutions participated. Papers were presented on project status, instrumentation, and astronomical science. The presentations can be found at www.submm.org/ The U. of Waterloo hosted the meeting which preceded the first meeting of the CCAT Interim Board of Directors, which was conducted the next day.



Participants in the CCAT Science Meeting

SCUBA II Near Delivery



Concept for Mounting SCUBA II on CCAT

SCUBA II will soon be delivered to JCMT. An interesting proposal put forth by the UK ATC as part of their participation in CCAT is the use of SCUBA II as a first

light and commissioning instrument for CCAT. Analysis shown by Wayne Holland showed that SCUBA II could be quite effective. An additional option was the possibility of an upgrade to SCUBA II depending on focal plane developments prior to implementation. The option to employ a proven instrument for commissioning and first science is attractive and will be reviewed further.