



T. Sebring and Monica Rubio (Director of Astronomy at CONICYT) on the summit of C. Chajnantor.

Chajnantor Users Group Meets in April 2008

CCAT was represented by Webster Cash from U. Colorado (Board Chair) and T. Sebring (Project Manager.) A wide range of issues were discussed over two days of meetings. Work is underway to improve the road up C. Chajnantor. CCAT was presented with a key to the road by Monica Rubio, Director of Astronomy at CONICYT. The overall growth of the Astronomical Science Preserve continues.

German Universities Submitting Proposals for R&D Funding

Juergen Stuzki, Observatory Director at the University of Cologne, Germany, has received encouragement from the German government to submit a proposal for industrial study of optics for CCAT. The work proposed would be an industrial study by Vertex Antennentechnik, Duisburg, Germany of layered optics design proposed by David Woody. This approach would employ a rigid CFRP back structure with multiple adjusters supporting a thin facesheet above it. This hybrid design is similar to that employed by the Large Millimeter Telescope (U. Mass and Mexico.) It requires less precision in manufacture, but would be adjusted to meet the stringent ($\sim 5\mu$ RMS) figure quality of CCAT.

CCAT Pursues Foundation Funding

With the assistance of the Cornell Office for Foundation Relations, CCAT has been actively pursuing funding via foundation grants. Letters of Interest have been generated and sent to a select group of foundations based on their history of giving, historical associations with physics and astronomy, and capacity. Efforts are focused on both small grants for near term Project activities and large grants which would constitute a significant fraction of the money required for construction.

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Studies CCAT Control System Architecture

Ian Robson and others at UK Astronomical Technology Centre have been successful in finding Science Technology and Facilities Council funding for a study of control system architectures for CCAT. The work constitutes about a man-year of effort and will be led by Patrick Wallace, developer of the TPoint and SLALIB mount and pointing models commonly used on today's largest optical telescopes. The work will include a survey of the control architectures employed on recent successful telescope and radio-telescope projects, a trade based on this and investigation of the best available platforms, operating systems, communications protocols, and user interfaces. The result will be a recommended architecture which can be further investigated prior to ratification by CCAT management. The study is to be completed by mid-summer 2009.

Japanese Tokyo Atacama Observatory to Install 1m Optical Telescope on Chajnantor

Discussions with TAO Project Manager, Mamoru Doi at the Chajnantor Working Group meeting in late April revealed that manufacture of the 1 meter precursor telescope was nearing completion and that installation was anticipated around the end of 2008. TAO's plans include development of a 6.5 meter telescope for the summit of Chajnantor, and the 1 meter telescope is intended to assist in site characterization, development of operations models, and early high altitude science.



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CCAT Participates in SPIE Astronomical Telescopes Meeting in Marseilles

CCAT was well represented at the SPIE Large Astronomical Telescope's Conference in late June. More than five papers were presented. Interest in CCAT in the world community remains extremely high and many positive discussions were had by those representing CCAT at this meeting. Papers can be found at: <http://submm.org/info>