
People and things

EUROPEAN SOUTHERN OBSERVATORY Looking deep into space

The European Southern Observatory's New Technology Telescope (NTT) at La Silla, Chile, looking deep into an 'empty' part of the sky, has found it filled with many faint and remote galaxies. The limit images are at least 2.5 times fainter than any previously obtained by optical telescope, the signal being equivalent to the glow of a cigarette seen from the distance of the Moon!

ESO's NTT instrument produced its first images in 1989. Pictures are recorded by a CCD camera, with mirror shape and alignment under computer control. Air turbulence around the instrument is minimized by active thermal control, while precision pointing and tracking virtually eliminates smearing.

Having found this new rich pattern, the next step is to study the colours of these faint objects for an indication of their age. Spectral measurements will give their wavelength shifts a measure of their velocity and distance.

Established in 1962, ESO, like CERN, pools resources from Member States to provide a comprehensive international research programme. In the 1970s, many ESO staff used CERN as a base pending completion of the headquarters building in Garching, near Munich.

On people

Emilio Picasso of CERN, Director of the LEP Project during its entire construction phase, Leader of what became Experimental Physics Division from 1972-77, and who also played a major role in the famous precision g-2 experiment, received this year's Prix Mondial Nessim Habif of Geneva University.

Chairman of CERN Finance Committee Arnfinn Graue of Bergen has been awarded the Order of St. Olaf Commander for his contributions to science in Norway.

Giuseppe Fidecaro 65

Recently passing a career milestone at CERN was Giuseppe Fidecaro, whose characteristically careful and imaginative work spans almost the whole epoch of modern particle physics, with its evolving techniques and interests.

This year's JINR-CERN School of Physics was held in Alushta, Crimea, from 5-6 May. The twelfth in a series of joint schools organized by CERN and JINR, the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research at Dubna, near Moscow, it attracted more than 100 physicists from 15 countries. Its aim was to teach aspects of high energy physics, especially theory, to young experimentalists.

(Photo Yu. Tumanov)

