

## **ESO Chile Committee – Meeting Summary**

### **14 June 2021**

#### Participants:

- Chile: Felipe Barrientos (FBA), Sebastián López (SLO), Matías Gómez (MGO), Ricardo Demarco (RDE), Yara Jaffe (YJA), Maja Vuckovic (MVU), Monica Rubio (MRU)
- ESO: Xavier Barcons (XBA), Andreas Kaufer (AKA), Itziar de Gregorio (IdG), Gautier Mathys (GMA)

#### Agenda:

1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 7 December 2020
2. ESO update (X. Barcons)
3. News from Chile (S. López)
4. ESO Office for Science matters (I. de Gregorio)
5. Hosted Telescope procedure and status update (G. Mathys)

Prior to the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, SLO announces that Patricio Rojo is no longer part of this committee, being replaced by Monica Rubio (MRU).

GMA reminds the committee members that Claudio Melo is no longer the ESO Representative, with Jean-Michel Bonneau acting as interim, and IdG and himself responsible for scientific matters during this period.

#### **1. Approval of the minutes of the meetings of 7 December 2020**

The minutes of the meeting of 7 December 2020 were approved as presented.

#### **2. ESO update**

The ESO Update presentation was given by XBA.

Following this presentation, the Chilean members of the Committee congratulated ESO for its performance and the progress achieved during the pandemic. They also expressed their appreciation of the brochure on ESO benefits to Chile.

Asked about the latest schedule update for 4MOST, AKA indicated that, as the result of delays due to the pandemic and to the instrument, the operations are expected to start at the earliest in October 2022. He noted that the installation of 4MOST will require modifications to the telescope, for which a shutdown expected to last about 6 months will be needed. Following it, the telescope and the instrument will have to be fully recommissioned. This shutdown will take place once the VIRCAM imaging surveys are completed.

To the question of the need for the OPC once the distributed proposal review is implemented, XBA answered that the OPC would always be needed for the evaluation of the Large Programmes and of the programmes requesting large amounts of time. He noted, however, that the smaller programmes would be appropriately and more efficiently handled through the distributed review.

### **3. News from Chile**

SLO presented the news from Chile.

GMA expressed surprise at the low impact of Chilean science mentioned in a UNESCO report, as it seems inconsistent with the impact of Chilean publications based on ESO telescope observations found in the previously mentioned ESO study of the ESO benefits to Chile. SLO replied that he would try to find more information on that matter.

### **4. ESO Office for Science matters**

IdG presented the matters related to the ESO Chile Office for Science.

Answering questions, she mentioned that consideration is being given to the possible participation of the Chilean community in future proposal preparation workshops. She clarified that, in each call for short-term students (twice a year), one position is granted to a Chilean student, which if there are no Chilean candidates, is given preferentially to a student from another Latin American country. Concerning the possibility for Chilean students to give talks at ESO, she indicated that this should take place in the context of the Joint ESO-ALMA colloquia series. She acknowledged that the option of spending the fourth year of an ESO fellowship in a Chilean institute has only been seldom chosen in recent years.

### **5. Hosted telescopes procedure and status update**

GMA gave a presentation on the status of the Hosted Telescopes.

SLO expressed his gratitude for the finalization of the Hosted Telescope procedure.

With respect to the pending status of the selection of Chilean teams for collaborative participation in BlackGEM and HELIOS, SLO indicated that he would request more information from the CNTAC Chair.

Before the end of the meeting, SLO asked whether future meetings would be online only. XBA suggested that it is fine from time to time, but it would be good to see everyone face to face, when possible. SLO agreed to have a mix of both.