

OTHER NEWS FROM ING

A Workshop in Honour of Paul Murdin

René G. M. Rutten (Director, ING)

The creation of the Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes, and more generally of the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory, is intimately related with the relentless energy of Paul Murdin. In October 2001, after many years, Paul stepped down from the ING Board, and this was commemorated with a brief but interesting workshop with the title "Science from La Palma – Past, Present and Future."

Various talks were given, showing the highlights as well as the unavoidable but entertaining anecdotes related to past discoveries, but, more importantly, talks were also given looking at the new developments at the observatory that point the way to the future.

Following an introduction on the planned developments at the ING, Carlos Frenk (Durham) beautifully reminded the audience how key developments and discoveries at the ING over the past decade have helped point the way towards the new generation of large telescopes. Vilppu Piirola (Tuorla) showed how the Nordic Optical Telescope exploits its excellent image quality, while Mike Bode (Liverpool) explained that the robotic Liverpool Telescope will open a new chapter in ground-based fast response astronomy. Michael Rowan Robinson complemented Carlos Frenk's talk with examples of ING's contribution to cosmology. The two final presentations by Eckart Lorenz (Munich) and José Miguel Rodríguez Espinosa (Tenerife), summarised the status of the two largest developments of facilities at the ORM, namely the MAGIC 17-m Cherenkov telescope, and the 10-m GRANTECAN telescope. Both these facilities will come into operation in the near future and lift the observatory as a whole to world class standards.

Of course at the end there was a lighter note to thank Paul for all these years of hard work that have helped shape the observatory in such a crucial way. Below, the top picture shows Francisco Sánchez presenting a gift to Paul. This celebration was a unique occasion to get four of the people together who have been at the helm of the ING. The picture in the middle shows, from left to right, Jasper Wall (Oxford), Paul Murdin (Cambridge), Jan Lub (Leiden) and René Rutten (ING).

The highlight of a buffet dinner in the evening was the performance of the Palmeran dancing group Echentive. The bottom picture shows Carlos Frenk having a good time on local Palmero rhythm. This formed the close of what had been an informative and entertaining event with many old friends of Paul and the observatory. □



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A new **Technical Note** has been published recently: "No 127 The Definition of Dark, Grey and Bright Time at ING", I. Skillen (ING), February 2002. This can be downloaded from

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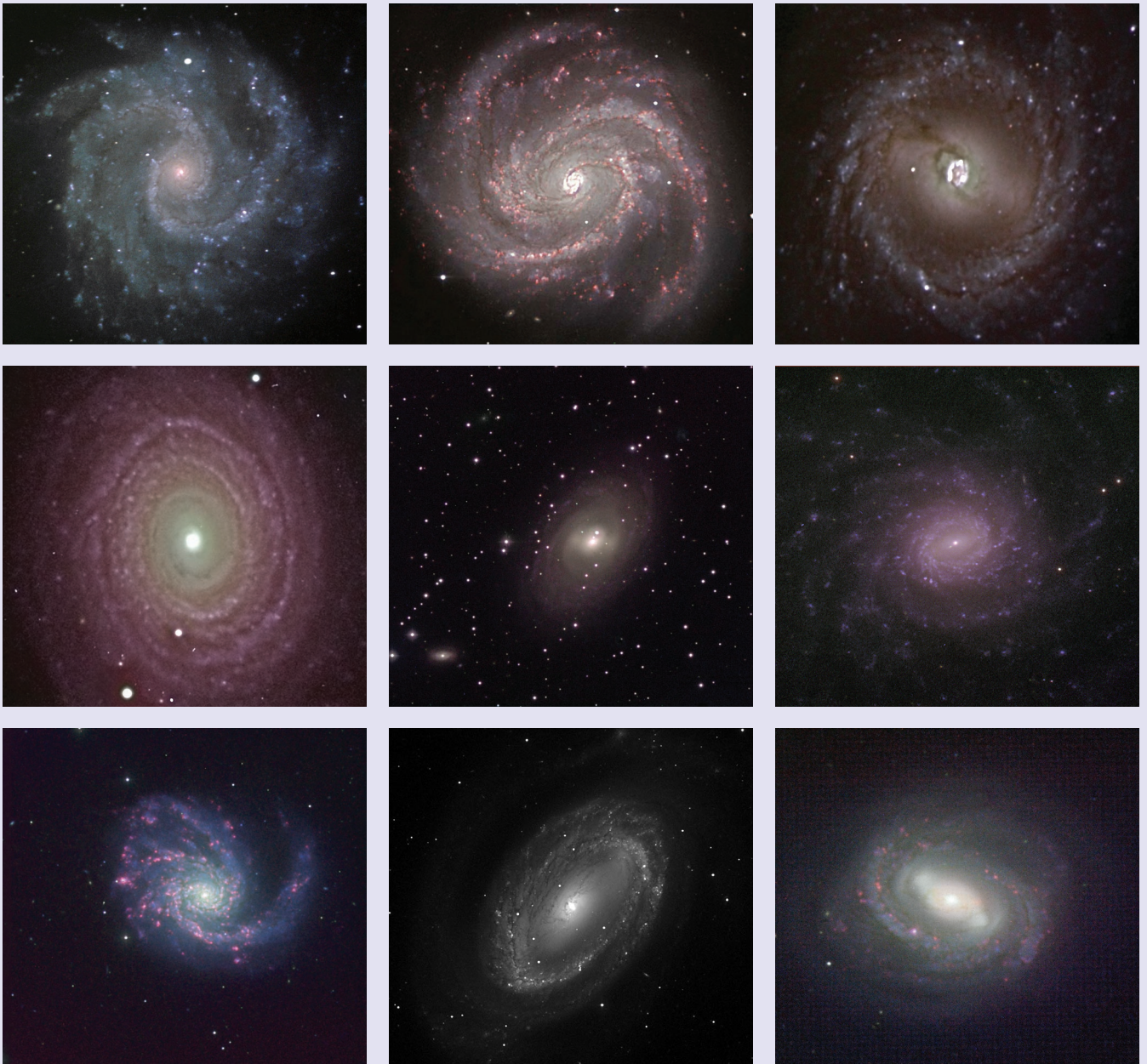
Real-Colour Images of Spiral Galaxies

Nik Szymanek (Univ. of Hertfordshire) and Johan H. Knapen (ING and Univ. of Hertfordshire)

The real-colour images of spiral galaxies reproduced in this Newsletter form part of a new series of such pictures, currently under construction. The original images used have all been obtained with the ING telescopes, mostly with the JKT, some with the INT, and an occasional (H-alpha) image with the WHT. We collected most of the images ourselves as part of a large PATT-supported science programme aimed at studying

spiral arm structure, and the rest from the ING archive. For each galaxy, we have images in the *B* and *I* bands as well as in the near-IR *K_s* band (see also article on page 3), and in H-alpha. Using a set of newly developed IRAF scripts we can produce series of images for each galaxy which are registered to a high accuracy, i.e., have the same pixel scale, orientation, resolution, and overall image size. This is not trivial, given the use of large amounts of

archive data, taken with different cameras, detectors and even telescopes. Whereas the data sets are being produced for scientific work, they serve another purpose which is to show the beauty and the variety of spiral galaxies. Our sample consists of 57 galaxies of all spiral types, from flocculent (multi-armed) to grand-design (two-armed and symmetric), and with and without bars, circumnuclear structure, and rings.



From left to right and from top to bottom: NGC 3184, NGC 4321, NGC 3351, NGC 488, NGC 1169, NGC 3486, NGC 4254, NGC 4725 (B-band) and NGC 4579.