

## THE ISAAC NEWTON GROUP OF TELESCOPES

The Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes (ING) consists of the 4.2m William Herschel Telescope (WHT), the 2.5m Isaac Newton Telescope (INT) and the 1.0m Jacobus Kapteyn Telescope (JKT), and is located 2350m above sea level at the Roque de Los Muchachos Observatory on the island of La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain. The WHT is the largest telescope of its kind in Western Europe.

The construction, operation, and development of the ING Telescopes is the result of a collaboration between the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. The site is provided by Spain, and in return Spanish astronomers receive 20 per cent of the observing time on the telescopes. The operation of the site is overseen by an International Scientific Committee, or Comité Científico Internacional (CCI).

A further 75 per cent of the observing time is shared by the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC). The remaining 5 per cent is reserved for large scientific projects to promote international collaboration between institutions of the CCI member countries.

The ING operates the telescopes on behalf of the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC) of the United Kingdom, the Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO) of the Netherlands and the IAC in Spain. The Roque de Los Muchachos Observatory, which is the principal European Northern hemisphere observatory, is operated by the IAC.



(Continued from front cover)

article on this exciting new project can be found on the following pages. I would very much welcome ideas and suggestions from the user community towards this project.

Coming back to the first sentence of this introduction, activities at the observatory have been as intense as ever. The last several months have once again seen a range of visiting instruments. Three of them were first-time visitors, each with their own very significant technical and astronomical challenges. There was CIRPASS, the near IR spectrograph from Cambridge operating in multi-

object mode. There was PLANETPOL from Hertfordshire, measuring polarisation with remarkable accuracy in an attempt to detect planets around stars. And there was S-CAM2, deploying the second-generation of super-conducting tunnel junction detector technology for a range of science programmes. So yes, work at ING has gone on as normal and hasn't been boring for a single moment.

Enjoy this issue of the Newsletter, and note that the editorial team would love to receive contributions from our readers!

René G. M. Rutten

### The ING Board

The ING Board oversees the operation, maintenance and development of the Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes, and fosters collaboration between the international partners. It approves annual budgets and determines the arrangements for the allocation of observing time on the telescopes. ING Board members are:

Prof J. Drew, *Chairperson* – ICL  
 Prof T. van der Hulst, *Vice Chairperson* – University of Groningen  
 Dr P. Crowther – University of Sheffield  
 Dr G. Dalton – University of Oxford  
 Dr R. García López – IAC  
 Dr R. Stark – NWO  
 Dr C. Vincent – PPARC  
 Ms Deborah Telfer, *Secretary* – PPARC

### The ING Director's Advisory Group

The Director's Advisory Group (DAG) assists the observatory in defining the strategic direction for operation and development of the telescopes. It also provides an international perspective and act as an independent contact point for the community to present its ideas. DAG members are:

Dr M. McCaughrean, *Chairperson* – Astrophysikalisches Institut Potsdam  
 Dr M. Balcells – IAC  
 Dr P. A. James – Liverpool John Moores Univ.  
 Dr N. Tanvir – Univ. of Hertfordshire  
 Dr E. Tolstoy – Univ. of Groningen

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