



European Organisation
for Astronomical
Research in the
Southern Hemisphere

Organisation Européenne
pour des Recherches
Astronomiques
dans l'Hémisphère Austral

Organización Europea
para la Investigación
Astronómica en
el Hemisferio Austral

Dr. Ovidiu Vaduvescu
EURONEAR Committee of Initiative

Observatoire de Paris
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EURONEAR - Letter of Intent.

Dear Dr. Vaduvescu,

Thank you for your letter of intent of July 17, 2006.

The proposal by the EURONEAR Committee of Initiative has been discussed at a recent ESO Management meeting. I am writing you on behalf of the ESO Director General, Dr. Catherine Cesarsky, in response to your letter to her.

The ESO 1-m telescope, which appears to be the most appropriate of the available small telescopes on La Silla for the proposed project, is currently not offered to the ESO community.

Therefore, the possibility exists to make this telescope available to the EURONEAR project, provided that the necessary modifications to convert the ESO 1-m into a fully robotic telescope and the subsequent operations do not require any major resources from the La Silla Paranal (LSP) Observatory.

Contractual details for such a project would have to be defined in a mutual agreement between the EURONEAR Consortium and ESO. This is the regular procedure for all external projects to be carried out an ESO Observatory.

To proceed in this matter, I would like to propose that on the Consortium's request the LSP Observatory will provide the relevant technical information on the 1-m telescope and its interfaces to allow the Consortium to investigate in detail the required modifications of the telescope, the necessary instrumentation, the operational scenario, and the respective budgets. This shall allow the Consortium to prepare a detailed project proposal to be submitted to ESO. The proposal will then be reviewed by

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ESO considering its scientific, technical, operational and financial aspects and its impact on the LSP Observatory.

I hope this information is helpful. I regret that ESO at this moment is not in the position to be more forthcoming.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andreas Kaufer'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Andreas' and the last name 'Kaufer' clearly distinguishable.

Andreas Kaufer

CC: C.Cesarsky