

PROCEEDINGS OF SPIE

Advanced Optical and Mechanical Technologies in Telescopes and Instrumentation

Eli Atad-Ettedgui
Dietrich Lemke
Editors

23–28 June 2008
Marseille, France

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Published by
SPIE

Part One of Three Parts

Volume 7018

Proceedings of SPIE, 0277-786X, v. 7018

SPIE is an international society advancing an interdisciplinary approach to the science and application of light.

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Please use the following format to cite material from this book:

Author(s), "Title of Paper," in *Advanced Optical and Mechanical Technologies in Telescopes and Instrumentation*, edited by Eli Atad-Ettedgui, Dietrich Lemke, Proceedings of SPIE Vol. 7018 (SPIE, Bellingham, WA, 2008) Article CID Number.

ISSN 0277-786X
ISBN 9780819472281

Published by
SPIE
P.O. Box 10, Bellingham, Washington 98227-0010 USA
Telephone +1 360 676 3290 (Pacific Time) · Fax +1 360 647 1445
SPIE.org

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Printed in the United States of America.

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Contents

Part One

xxiii	Conference Committee
xxv	<i>Introduction</i>
xxvii	<i>High redshift galaxy surveys (Plenary Paper) [7016-500]</i> M. Iye, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (Japan)

SESSION 1 OPTICAL FABRICATION I

7018 03	Light and lightened mirrors for astronomy [7018-02] D. Fappani, Société Européenne de Systèmes Optiques (France)
7018 04	M1 primary mirror manufacturing for VISTA project [7018-03] M. A. Abdulkadyrov, A. P. Patrikeev, S. P. Belousov, A. P. Semenov, V. E. Patrikeev, A. N. Ignatov, A. V. Polyanchikov, V. V. Pridnya, Y. A. Sharov, JSC Lytkarino Optical Glass Factory (LZOS) (Russia); A. G. Poleshchuk, R. K. Nasirov, Institute of Automation and Electrometry SB (Russia)
7018 06	Stress polishing of toric mirrors for the VLT-SPHERE common path [7018-05] E. Hugot, M. Ferrari, K. El Hadi, K. Dohlen, P. Vola, N. Ernst, G. R. Lemaitre, P. Montiel, Univ. de Provence Aix-Marseille I, Lab. d'Astrophysique de Marseille, CNRS/INSU (France)
7018 07	Wavefront corrective lens for the Subaru Laser Launching Telescope [7018-06] A. Novi, Galileo Avionica S.p.A. (Italy); R. Canestrari, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy) and Univ. degli Studi dell'Insubria (Italy); M. Ghigo, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy); Y. Hayano, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, Subaru Telescope (United States)

SESSION 2 OPTICAL FABRICATION II

7018 08	Directly polished lightweight aluminum mirror [7018-08] R. ter Horst, N. Tromp, M. de Haan, R. Navarro, NOVA-ASTRON (Netherlands); L. Venema, J. Pragt, ASTRON (Netherlands)
7018 09	Reactive atom plasma (RAP) processing of mirrors for astronomy [7018-09] P. K. Subrahmanyam, G. Gardopée, RAPT Industries, Inc. (United States)
7018 0A	Manufacturing and performance test of an 800-mm space optic [7018-10] M. R. Krödel, ECM Ingenieur-Unternehmen für Energie- und Umwelttechnik GmbH (Germany); T. Ozaki, M. Kume, A. Furuya, Mitsubishi Electric Corp. (Japan); Y. Y. Yui, H. Imai, H. Katayama, Y. Tange, T. Nakagawa, H. Kaneda, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (Japan)

7018 0B	M2 secondary mirror manufacturing for VISTA project [7018-11] M. A. Abdulkadyrov, A. P. Patrikeev, S. P. Belousov, V. V. Pridnya, V. E. Patrikeev, A. N. Ignatov, A. V. Polyanchikov, A. P. Semenov, Y. A. Sharov, Joint Stock Co. Lytkarino Optical Glass Factory (Russia)
7018 0C	Progress in manufacturing the first 8.4 m off-axis segment for the Giant Magellan Telescope [7018-12] H. M. Martin, The Univ. of Arizona, Steward Observatory (United States); J. H. Burge, The Univ. of Arizona, Steward Observatory (United States) and College of Optical Sciences, Univ. of Arizona (United States); B. Cuerden, W. B. Davison, J. S. Kingsley, W. C. Kittrell, R. D. Lutz, S. M. Miller, The Univ. of Arizona, Steward Observatory (United States); C. Zhao, T. Zobrist, College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States)
7018 0D	Investigation of a novel slumping technique for the manufacturing of stiff and lightweight optical mirrors [7018-13] R. Canestrari, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy) and Univ. degli Studi dell'Insubria (Italy); M. Ghigo, G. Pareschi, S. Basso, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy); L. Proserpio, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy) and Univ. degli Studi dell'Insubria (Italy)
7018 0E	Polishing, coating, and integration of SiC mirrors for space telescopes [7018-15] J. Rodolfo, SAGEM-REOSC (France)
7018 0F	Sub-surface damage issues for effective fabrication of large optics [7018-16] X. Tonnelier, P. Shore, P. Morantz, Optic Technium (United Kingdom) and Cranfield Univ. (United Kingdom); A. Baldwin, Cranfield Univ. (United Kingdom); D. Walker, Optic Technium (United Kingdom) and Zeeko Ltd. (United Kingdom); G. Yu, R. Evans, Optic Technium (United Kingdom)
7018 0G	Manufacture of a combined primary and tertiary mirror for the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope [7018-17] H. M. Martin, The Univ. of Arizona, Steward Observatory (United States); J. H. Burge, The Univ. of Arizona, Steward Observatory (United States) and College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States); B. Cuerden, W. B. Davison, J. S. Kingsley, R. D. Lutz, S. M. Miller, M. Tuell, The Univ. of Arizona, Steward Observatory (United States)

SESSION 3 FOCAL PLANE ASSEMBLIES

7018 0I	Configurable slit-mask unit of the multi-object spectrometer for infra-red exploration for the Keck telescope: integration and tests [7018-19] P. Spanoudakis, L. Giriens, S. Henein, L. Lisowski, A. O'Hare, E. Onillon, P. Schwab, P. Theurillat, Ctr. Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (Switzerland)
7018 0J	MUSE image slicer: test results on largest slicer ever manufactured [7018-20] F. Laurent, E. Renault, J. Kosmalski, L. Adjali, D. Boudon, R. Bacon, P. Caillier, A. Remillieux, Univ. de Lyon 1, Ctr. de Recherche Astronomique de Lyon (France) and CNRS, UMR 5574, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon (France); Y. Salaun, WINLIGHT-OPTICS (France); B. Delabre, European Southern Observatory (Germany)

- 7018 OK **GTC-EMIR Configurable Slit Unit development details** [7018-21]
M. Teuwen, H. Janssen, R. Geurink, M. Boots, Janssen Precision Engineering B.V.
(Netherlands); F. Garzón López, Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (Spain)

SESSION 4 MATERIALS

- 7018 OL **Enabling materials and processes for large aerospace mirrors (Invited Paper)** [7018-22]
L. E. Matson, M. Y. Chen, Air Force Research Lab. (United States)
- 7018 OM **New technologies for optical systems utilizing aluminum beryllium** [7018-23]
T. Parsonage, Brush Wellman, Inc. (United States)
- 7018 ON **The European ALMA production antennas: extended applications of CFRP materials for high scientific performances** [7018-24]
P. Lapeyre, Thales Alenia Space France (France); F. Rampini, M. Pozzobon, European Industrial Engineering (Italy); M. Suita, Thales Alenia Space Italia (Italy); O. Damiano, M. Apers, Thales Alenia Space France (France)
- 7018 OO **Optical materials for astronomy from SCHOTT: the quality of large components** [7018-25]
R. Jedamzik, J. Hengst, F. Elsmann, C. Lemke, T. Döhring, P. Hartmann, SCHOTT AG (Germany)
- 7018 OP **ZERODUR glass ceramics: strength data for the design of structures with high mechanical stresses** [7018-26]
P. Hartmann, K. Nattermann, T. Döhring, M. Kuhr, P. Thomas, SCHOTT AG (Germany); G. Kling, P. Gath, S. Lucarelli, EADS Astrium Satellites (Germany)
- 7018 OQ **ZERODUR glass ceramics: design of structures with high mechanical stresses** [7018-27]
K. Nattermann, P. Hartmann, SCHOTT AG (Germany); G. Kling, P. Gath, S. Lucarelli, B. Messerschmidt, EADS Astrium Satellites (Germany)
- 7018 OR **NIRSpec OA development process of SiC components** [7018-28]
K. Honnen, A. Kommer, B. Messerschmidt, T. Wiehe, Astrium GmbH (Germany)

SESSION 5 SEGMENT MIRROR TECHNOLOGIES

- 7018 OS **Primary mirror segmentation studies for the Thirty Meter Telescope** [7018-29]
C. Baffes, Jet Propulsion Lab. (United States); T. Mast, J. Nelson, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz (United States); E. Ponslet, V. Stephens, HYTEC, Inc. (United States); L. Stepp, E. C. Williams, TMT Observatory Corp. (United States)
- 7018 OT **Panel options for large precision radio telescopes** [7018-30]
D. Woody, California Institute of Technology, Owens Valley Radio Observatory (United States); D. MacDonald, M. Bradford, Jet Propulsion Lab. (United States); R. Chamberlin, California Institute of Technology Submillimeter Observatory (United States); M. Dragovan, P. Goldsmith, Jet Propulsion Lab. (United States); J. Lamb, California Institute of Technology, Owens Valley Radio Observatory (United States); S. Radford, J. Zmuidzinas, California Institute of Technology (United States)

7018 0U	Production of extreme ultraviolet (EUV) quality silicon carbide (SiC) aspheric optics [7018-31] J. Schwartz, L-3 Communications, SSG-Tinsley, Inc. (United States); A. Arneson, Tinsley Labs. (United States); J. Robichaud, L-3 Communications, SSG-Tinsley, Inc. (United States)
7018 0V	Development of cold-slumping glass mirrors for imaging Cherenkov telescopes [7018-32] D. Vernani, R. Banham, O. Citterio, F. Sanvito, G. Valsecchi, Media Lario Technologies (Italy); G. Pareschi, M. Ghigo, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy); E. Giro, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova (Italy); M. Doro, M. Mariotti, Univ. and INFN Padova (Italy)
7018 0W	Glass mirrors by cold slumping to cover 100 m² of the MAGIC II Cherenkov telescope reflecting surface [7018-33] G. Pareschi, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy); E. Giro, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova (Italy) and INFN Sezione di Padova (Italy); R. Banham, S. Bassi, Media Lario Technologies S.r.l. (Italy); D. Bastieri, INFN Sezione di Padova (Italy); R. Canestrari, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy); G. Ceppatelli, Fundación Galileo Galilei INAF (Spain); O. Citterio, Media Lario Technologies S.r.l. (Italy); M. Doro, INFN Sezione di Padova (Italy); M. Ghigo, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy); F. Marioni, Media Lario Technologies S.r.l. (Italy); M. Mariotti, INFN Sezione di Padova (Italy); M. Salvati, INAF-Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri (Italy); F. Sanvito, Media Lario Technologies S.r.l. (Italy); D. Vernani, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy) and Media Lario Technologies S.r.l. (Italy)
7018 0Z	PACT: the actuator to support the primary mirror of the ELT [7018-36] F. Kamphues, J. Nijenhuis, R. den Breeje, T. C. van den Dool, J. Ponsioen, TNO Science & Industry (Netherlands)
7018 10	Advancement of the segment support system for the Thirty Meter Telescope primary mirror [7018-37] E. C. Williams, TMT Observatory Corp. (United States); C. Baffes, Jet Propulsion Lab. (United States); T. Mast, J. Nelson, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz (United States); B. Platt, Jet Propulsion Lab. (United States); R. J. Ponchione, E. Ponslet, S. Setoodeh, HYTEC, Inc. (United States); M. Sirota, TMT Observatory Corp. (United States); V. Stephens, HYTEC Inc. (United States); L. Stepp, TMT Observatory Corp. (United States); A. Tubb, HYTEC, Inc. (United States)
7018 12	Active control of edges and global microstructure on segmented mirrors [7018-39] D. D. Walker, OpTIC Technium (United Kingdom) and Zeeko Ltd. (United Kingdom); A. Beaucamp, Zeeko Ltd. (United Kingdom); C. Dunn, Zeeko Technologies LLC (United States); R. Evans, OpTIC Technium (United Kingdom); R. Freeman, R. Morton, S. Wei, Zeeko Ltd. (United Kingdom); G. Yu, OpTIC Technium (United Kingdom)

SESSION 6 TEST AND METROLOGY I

7018 13	The image quality of the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) (Invited Paper) [7018-40] D. E. O'Donoghue, South African Astronomical Observatory (South Africa); E. Atad-Ettedgui, UK Astronomical Technology Ctr., The Royal Observatory Edinburgh (United Kingdom); L. Balona, South African Astronomical Observatory (South Africa); B. C. Bigelow, Univ. of Michigan (United States); J. A. Booth, McDonald Observatory, Univ. of Texas at Austin (United States); L. Botha, J. D. Brink, D. A. H. Buckley, P. Charles, A. Christians, South African Astronomical Observatory (South Africa); J. C. Clemens, Univ. of
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North Carolina at Chapel Hill (United States); L. A. Crause, S. M. Crawford, G. P. Evans, H. Gajjar, Y. Hashimoto, M. Hendricks, A. Kniazev, A. R. Koeslag, W. P. Koorts, H. J. Kriel, N. S. Loaring, J. Love, F. Marang, D. Metcalfe, B. Meyer, J. O'Connor, C. A. du Plessis, South African Astronomical Observatory (South Africa); L. W. Ramsey, The Pennsylvania State Univ. (United States); E. Romero-Colmenero, C. Sass, J. C. Scholtz, R. Sefako, S. Siyengo, M. Still, O. J. Strydom, South African Astronomical Observatory (South Africa); A. Swat, European Southern Observatory (Germany); J. F. Du Toit, SunSpace (South Africa); P. Vaisanen, South African Astronomical Observatory (South Africa); M. Wells, UK Astronomical Technology Ctr., The Royal Observatory Edinburgh (United Kingdom); H. Worters, South African Astronomical Observatory (South Africa) and Ctr. for Astrophysics, Univ. of Central Lancashire (United Kingdom)

- 7018 14 **Development of surface metrology for the Giant Magellan Telescope primary mirror** [7018-41]
J. H. Burge, Steward Observatory, The Univ. of Arizona (United States) and College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States); W. Davison, H. M. Martin, Steward Observatory, The Univ. of Arizona (United States); C. Zhao, College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States)
- 7018 15 **Some considerations for precision metrology of thin x-ray mirrors** [7018-42]
J. P. Lehan, Ctr. for Research and Exploration in Space Science and Technology, NASA Goddard Space Flight Ctr. (United States) and Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County (United States); T. Saha, W. W. Zhang, S. Owens Rohrbach, NASA Goddard Space Flight Ctr. (United States); K.-W. Chan, Ctr. for Research and Exploration in Space Science and Technology, NASA Goddard Space Flight Ctr. (United States) and Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County (United States); T. Hadjimichael, Nasa Goddard Space Flight Ctr. (United States) and Ball Aerospace (United States); M. Hong, NASA Goddard Space Flight Ctr. (United States) and SGT, Inc. (United States); W. Davis, Harvard-Smithsonian Ctr. for Astrophysics (United States)
- 7018 16 **Selective reinforcement of a 2m-class lightweight mirror for horizontal beam optical testing** [7018-148]
R. W. Besuner, K. P. Chow, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (United States); S. E. Kendrick, S. Streetman, Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. (United States)
- 7018 17 **Optical surface measurements for very large flat mirrors** [7018-44]
J. H. Burge, P. Su, J. Yellowhair, C. Zhao, College of Optical Sciences, Univ. of Arizona (United States)
- 7018 18 **Optical metrology for very large convex aspheres** [7018-45]
J. H. Burge, P. Su, C. Zhao, College of Optical Sciences, Univ. of Arizona (United States)

SESSION 7 TEST AND METROLOGY II

- 7018 19 **Alignment analysis of four-mirror spherical aberration correctors** [7018-46]
A. M. Hvissic, J. H. Burge, College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States)
- 7018 1A **Range-gated metrology: an ultra-compact sensor for dimensional stabilization** [7018-47]
O. P. Lay, S. Dubovitsky, D. A. Shaddock, B. Ware, C. S. Woodruff, Jet Propulsion Lab. (United States)

- 7018 1B **New device to measure the reflectivity on steeply curved surface** [7018-206]
H. Piombini, CEA, Le Ripault (France); D. Soler, Winlight System S.A. (France); P. Voarino, QOL (France)
- 7018 1C **Contactless sub-millimeter displacement measurements** [7018-49]
G. Sliepen, A. P. L. Jägers, F. C. M. Bettonvil, Utrecht Univ., Astronomical Institute (Netherlands) and Technology Foundation STW (Netherlands); R. H. Hammerschlag, Utrecht Univ., Astronomical Institute (Netherlands)

SESSION 8 ATMOSPHERIC COMPENSATION AND ADAPTIVE OPTICS

- 7018 1D **Atmospheric dispersion effects in ELTs and their compensation (Invited Paper)** [7018-50]
E. Atad-Ettedgui, UK Astronomy Technology Ctr., The Royal Observatory Edinburgh (United Kingdom); M. Owner-Petersen, Lund Observatory, Lund Univ. (Sweden); A. V. Goncharov, National Univ. of Ireland, Galway (Ireland)
- 7018 1E **Actuating the deformable mirror: a multiphysics design approach** [7018-51]
C. Del Vecchio, INAF-Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri (Italy); R. Biasi, Microgate SrL (Italy); D. Gallieni, ADS International SrL (Italy); A. Riccardi, INAF-Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri (Italy); R. Spairani, Solaria Engineering (Italy)
- 7018 1F **Stable flexure mounting of a MEMS deformable mirror for the GPI Planet Imager** [7018-52]
A. Hill, D. Erickson, J. Fitzsimmons, National Research Council Canada, Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics (Canada); P. Bierden, S. Cornelissen, Boston Micromachines Corp. (United States); D. Palmer, Lawrence Livermore National Labs. (United States)
- 7018 1G **A super-corrected atmospheric dispersion corrector** [7018-151]
P. Spanò, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy)

SESSION 9 TELESCOPE STRUCTURE AND ACTIVE INSTRUMENTS I

- 7018 1H **Image motion correction using accelerometers at the MMT Observatory** [7018-54]
T. Stalcup, MMT Observatory (United States); K. Powell, Steward Observatory, The Univ. of Arizona (United States)
- 7018 1I **Analysis, optimization, and modification the back-structure of FAST** [7018-55]
Q. Zhao, Q. Wang, National Astronomical Observatories (China); S. Niu, H. Qian, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 7018 1J **A 2.5m astronomical telescope project** [7018-56]
O. Phaichith, SAGEM-REOSC (France)
- 7018 1K **Design and analysis of flexure mounts for precision optics** [7018-167]
J. Fitzsimmons, D. Erickson, A. Hill, National Research Council Canada, Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics (Canada); R. Bartos, J. K. Wallace, Jet Propulsion Lab. (United States)
- 7018 1L **Platform deformation refined pointing and phase correction for the AMiBA hexapod telescope** [7018-58]
P. Koch, Academia Sinica, Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics (Taiwan); M. Kesteven, Australia Telescope National Facility (Australia); Y.-Y. Chang, Y.-D. Huang, P. Raffin,

K.-Y. Chen, G. Chereau, M.-T. Chen, P. T. P. Ho, Academia Sinica, Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics (Taiwan); C.-W. Huang, National Taiwan Univ. (Taiwan); F. Ibañez-Romano, H. Jiang, Academia Sinica, Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics (Taiwan); Y.-W. Liao, National Taiwan Univ. (Taiwan); K.-Y. Lin, G.-C. Liu, S. Molnar, H. Nishioka, K. Umetsu, Academia Sinica, Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics (Taiwan); F.-C. Wang, J.-C. P. Wu, National Taiwan Univ. (Taiwan); P. Altamirano, ASIAA Hawaii Site Office (United States); C.-H. Chang, S.-H. Chang, S.-W. Chang, C.-C. Han, Academia Sinica, Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics (Taiwan); D. Kubo, ASIAA Hawaii Site Office (United States); C.-T. Li, P. Martin-Cocher, Academia Sinica, Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics (Taiwan); P. Oshiro, ASIAA Hawaii Site Office (United States)

SESSION 10 TELESCOPE STRUCTURE AND ACTIVE INSTRUMENTS II

- 7018 1M **The European ALMA prototype: high-precision dish from design up to on-site alignment** [7018-59]
P. Lapeyre, Thales Alenia Space France (France); F. Rampini, European Industrial Engineering (Italy); G. Saint-Martory, Thales Alenia Space France (France); C. Gennaro, Thales Alenia Space Italia (Italy); G. Valsecchi, Media Lario S.r.l. (Italy); C. Couteret, Thales Alenia Space France (France); G. Archambeau, Setis's (France)
- 7018 1N **Large fully retractable telescope enclosures still closable in strong wind** [7018-60]
F. C. M. Bettonvil, Astronomical Institute, Utrecht Univ. (Netherlands) and Technology Foundation STW (Netherlands); R. H. Hammerschlag, Astronomical Institute, Utrecht Univ. (Netherlands); A. P. L. Jägers, G. Sliepen, Astronomical Institute, Utrecht Univ. (Netherlands) and Technology Foundation STW (Netherlands)
- 7018 1O **Trajectory control of cable suspended FAST telescope focus cabin** [7018-165]
B. Strah, S. Kern, F. Fomi, M. Lazanowski, Technische Univ. Darmstadt (Germany); H. Li, J. Sun, R. Nan, National Astronomical Observatories (China); H. Kärcher, MT Mechatronics GmbH (Germany); R. Nordmann, Technische Univ. Darmstadt (Germany)
- 7018 1P **Automated CO₂ cleaning system for the SALT primary mirror** [7018-62]
H. Kriel, O. Strydom, C. du Plessis, H. Gajjar, South African Astronomical Observatory (South Africa)

Part Two

- 7018 1Q **Semi-kinematic mount of the FIREBALL large optics** [7018-63]
C. Rossin, R. Grange, B. Milliard, L. Martin, G. Moreaux, P. Blanchard, J.-M. Deharveng, Lab. d'Astrophysique de Marseille, CNRS, Univ. de Provence (France); J. Evrard, CNES Ctr. Spatial de Toulouse (France); C. Martin, R. McLean, California Institute of Technology (United States); D. Schiminovich, Columbia Univ. (United States)
- 7018 1R **Fast foldable tent domes** [7018-64]
A. P. L. Jägers, G. Sliepen, F. C. M. Bettonvil, Astronomical Institute, Utrecht Univ. (Netherlands) and Technology Foundation STW (Netherlands); R. H. Hammerschlag, Astronomical Institute, Utrecht Univ. (Netherlands)

SESSION 11 TELESCOPE STRUCTURE AND ACTIVE INSTRUMENTS III

- 7018 1S **Performance prediction of the TMT secondary mirror support system** [7018-65]
M. K. Cho, National Optical Astronomy Observatory (United States)
- 7018 1T **Practical considerations of joint friction and backlash in large ground-based telescope secondary optic positioning systems** [7018-66]
M. Cash, D. Bruch, B. Jahn, P. Keas, CSA Engineering, Inc. (United States)
- 7018 1U **Smart instrument technologies to meet extreme instrument stability requirements** [7018-67]
C. Cunningham, P. Hastings, UK Astronomy Technology Ctr., Royal Observatory Edinburgh (United Kingdom); F. Kerber, European Southern Observatory (Germany); D. Montgomery, UK Astronomy Technology Ctr., Royal Observatory Edinburgh (United Kingdom); L. Venema, NOVA-ASTRON (Netherlands); P. Vola, Lab. d'Astrophysique de Marseille (France)
- 7018 1V **Deployment technologies for terrestrial planet finding missions** [7018-68]
C. F. Lillie, D. R. Dailey, A. S. Lo, R. S. Polidan, J. W. Arenberg, T. Glassman, Northrop Grumman Space Technology (United States)

SESSION 12 SPACE INSTRUMENTATION AND CRYOGENICS I

- 7018 1Y **JWST NIRSpec mechanical design (Invited Paper)** [7018-71]
J.-C. Salvignol, European Space Agency (Netherlands); K. Honnen, R. Barho, EADS Astrium GmbH (Germany)
- 7018 1Z **The cryogenic refocusing mechanism of NIRSpec opto-mechanical design, analysis, and testing** [7018-73]
M. Taccolla, Galileo Avionica spA (Italy); G. Bagnasco, European Space Agency (Netherlands); R. Barho, EADS Astrium GmbH (Germany); G. C. Caprini, M. Di Giampietro, Galileo Avionica spA (Italy); L. Gaillard, European Space Agency (Netherlands); G. Mondello, Galileo Avionica spA (Italy); J.-C. Salvignol, M. Te Plate, European Space Agency (Netherlands); N. Tonetti, Galileo Avionica spA (Italy)
- 7018 20 **The optical manufacturing of the refocusing mechanism of NIRSpec** [7018-72]
A. Novi, M. Taccolla, Galileo Avionica spA (Italy); J. Koehler, EADS Astrium GmbH (Germany); M. Di Giampietro, Galileo Avionica spA (Italy)
- 7018 21 **High-precision cryogenic wheel mechanisms for the JWST NIRSpec instrument** [7018-74]
K. Weidlich, M. Fischer, M. M. Ellenrieder, T. Gross, Carl Zeiss Optronics GmbH (Germany); J.-C. Salvignol, European Space Agency (Netherlands); R. Barho, EADS Astrium GmbH (Germany); C. Neugebauer, G. Königsreiter, Austrian Aerospace GmbH (Austria); M. Trunz, Ing.-Büro für Strukturmechanik Trunz (Germany); F. Müller, O. Krause, Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie (Germany)
- 7018 22 **The optical components of the NIRSpec wheel mechanisms** [7018-75]
M. M. Ellenrieder, K. Weidlich, B. Nelles, Carl Zeiss Optronics GmbH (Germany); B. Ploss, mso jena Mikroschichtoptik GmbH (Germany); S. Bruynooghe, Carl Zeiss AG (Germany); J. Köhler, EADS Astrium GmbH (Germany); M. Te Plate, European Space Agency (Netherlands)

- 7018 23 **Manufacturing and verification of ZnS and Ge prisms for the JWST MIRI imager** [7018-76]
L. Rossi, Univ. de Liège (Belgium); J.-F. Jamoye, Nanoshape, AMOS Ltd. (Belgium);
E. Renotte, E. Mazy, J.-Y. Plesseria, N. Ninane, Univ. de Liège (Belgium); M. Wielandts,
Nanoshape, AMOS Ltd. (Belgium); S. Fischer, C. Straubmeier, Univ. zu Köln (Germany);
J.-L. Augueres, D. Dubreuil, J. Amiaux, S. Poupar, S. Ronayette, CEA/DAPNIA, Service
d'Astrophysique (France)
- 7018 24 **Cryogenic wheel mechanisms for the Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI) of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST): detailed design and test results from the qualification program** [7018-77]
O. Krause, S. Birkmann, T. Blümchen, A. Böhm, M. Ebert, U. Grözinger, Th. Henning,
R. Hofferbert, A. Huber, D. Lemke, R.-R. Rohloff, S. Scheithauer, Max-Planck-Institut für
Astronomie (Germany); T. Gross, G. Luichtel, C. Stein, R. Stott, M. Übele, Carl Zeiss Optronics
GmbH (Germany); J. Amiaux, J.-L. Auguères, CEA/IRFU/SAp (France); A. Glauser,
A. Zehnder, Paul-Scherrer-Institut (Switzerland); M. Meijers, R. Jager, ASTRON (Netherlands);
P. Parr-Burman, G. Wright, UK Astronomy Technology Ctr., Royal Observatory (United
Kingdom)

SESSION 13 SPACE INSTRUMENTATION AND CRYOGENICS II

- 7018 25 **The Herschel-PACS grating mechanism: mechanical and optical performance** [7018-78]
B. Marquet, J. Y. Plesseria, E. Renotte, Ctr. Spatial de Liège (Belgium); P. Royer, Katholieke
Univ. Leuven (Belgium); R. Vavrek, European Space Agency (Spain)
- 7018 26 **New design for a space cryo-mechanism** [7018-80]
G. Durand, J. Amiaux, J.-L. Auguères, M. Carty, J. C. Barrière, M. Bouzat, B. Duboué,
P. O. Lagage, D. Lebeuf, E. Lepage, I. Lemer, N. P. Marlaguey, S. Poupar,
CEA/Saclay/DSM/IRFU/SAp (France)
- 7018 27 **Parametric cost estimation for space science missions** [7018-81]
C. F. Lillie, B. E. Thompson, Northrop Grumman Space Technology (United States)
- 7018 28 **Three bipods slicer prototype: tests and finite element calculations** [7018-82]
T. Pamplona, C. Rossin, L. Martin, G. Moreaux, E. Prieto, P. Laurent, E. Grassi, J.-L. Boit,
L. Castinel, J. Garcia, B. Milliard, Lab. d'Astrophysique de Marseille, CNRS, Univ. de
Provence (France)

SESSION 14 GROUND BASED INSTRUMENTATION AND CRYOGENICS

- 7018 29 **A cryogenic dithering stage for moving SPHERE-IRDIS' detector** [7018-86]
R.-R. Rohloff, T. Blümchen, M. Feldt, V. Naranjo, J. Ramos, Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie
(Germany); K.-D Müller, H. Marth, Physik Instrumente (Germany); P. Pertsch, PI Ceramic
GmbH (Germany); K. Dohlen, L'Observatoire Astronomique Marseille-Provence (France)
- 7018 2A **Mechanical design and testing of the cryogenic pick-off arms for the VLT KMOS** [7018-83]
R. J. Bennett, G. H. Davidson, P. Rees, S. P. Todd, UK Astronomy Technology Ctr., Royal
Observatory (United Kingdom)

- 7018 2B **Cryogenic high resolution translation unit (CTU)** [7018-84]
J. Serrano, J. Moreno Raso, E. Pedrosa, A. Moral, J. L. San Juan, M. Lecina, L. Díez, A. Sanz, LIDAX (Spain); T. Belenguer, G. Ramos, LINES, INTA (Spain)
- 7018 2C **Performance of a cryogenic Michelson interferometer** [7018-85]
P. Lagueux, M. Chamberland, F. Marcotte, A. Villemaire, M. Duval, Telops, Inc. (Canada); J. Genest, Laval Univ. (Canada); A. Carter, National Institute of Standards & Technology (United States)
- 7018 2D **Opto-mechanical design for transmission optics in cryogenic IR instrumentation** [7018-87]
G. Kroes, J. Kragt, R. Navarro, E. Elswijk, H. Hanenburg, NOVA-ASTRON (Netherlands)
- 7018 2E **Automatic pre-cooling system for large infrared instruments** [7018-88]
K. Omata, T. Nishimura, S. Colley, D. Cook, W. Gorman, B. Magrath, L. Ramos, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (United States); S. Kleinman, Gemini Observatory (United States); C. Tokoku, Astronomical Institute, Tohoku Univ. (Japan); M. Konishi, T. Yoshikawa, I. Tanaka, R. Suzuki, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (United States)
- 7018 2F **CRAL expertise on image slicer: optical designs, glass or metallic manufacturing, test, and results** [7018-89]
E. Renault, F. Laurent, J. Kosmalski, L. Adjali, Univ. de Lyon 1, Ctr. de Recherche Astronomique de Lyon, Observatoire de Lyon (France) and CNRS, UMR 5574, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon (France)
- 7018 2G **Optical design of the LSST camera** [7018-90]
S. S. Olivier, L. Seppala, Lawrence Livermore National Lab. (United States); K. Gilmore, Stanford Linear Accelerator Ctr. (United States)
- 7018 2H **Mechanical design of the LSST camera** [7018-91]
M. Nordby, G. Bowden, M. Foss, G. Guiffre, Stanford Linear Accelerator Ctr. (United States); J. Ku, Stellar Solutions, Inc. (United States); R. Schindler, Stanford Linear Accelerator Ctr. (United States)

SESSION 15 INNOVATIONS IN SPECTROSCOPY

- 7018 2I **Small solutions to the large telescope problem: a massively replicated MEMS spectrograph** [7018-92]
N. P. Konidaris II, J. A. Kubby, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz (United States); A. I. Sheinis, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison (United States)
- 7018 2J **Waveguide image-slicers for ultrahigh resolution spectroscopy** [7018-93]
E. Beckert, Fraunhofer-Institute for Applied Optics and Precision Engineering (Germany); K. G. Strassmeier, M. Woche, Astrophysical Institute Potsdam (Germany); R. Eberhardt, A. Tünnermann, Fraunhofer-Institute for Applied Optics and Precision Engineering (Germany); M. Andersen, Univ. of Copenhagen (Denmark)
- 7018 2K **An active optics concept for the multi-object spectrograph EAGLE** [7018-94]
F. Madec, E. Hugot, J.-L. Gimenez, F. Tracol, M. Ferrari, P. Vola, S. Vivès, K. El Hadi, G. Moreaux, E. Prieto, J.-G. Cuby, Lab. d'Astrophysique de Marseille (France)

- 7018 2L **VPHGs tunes** [7018-95]
E. Molinari, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy); A. Bianco, G. Toso, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy) and Politecnico di Milano (Italy); F. M. Zerbi, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy)
- 7018 2M **Rewritable VPHGs based on photochromic materials** [7018-96]
A. Bianco, INAF-Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica (Italy) and Politecnico di Milano (Italy); G. Toso, Politecnico di Milano (Italy) and INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy); G. Dassa, B. Chiara, Politecnico di Milano (Italy); E. Molinari, F. M. Zerbi, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy); G. Zerbi, Politecnico di Milano (Italy); M. Georges, Ctr. Spatial de Liège, Univ. de Liège (Belgium); P. Lemaire, ATHOL S.A. (Belgium)
- 7018 2N **New technological developments in integral field spectroscopy** [7018-97]
S. Vives, E. Prieto, Lab. d'Astrophysique de Marseille (France); Y. Salaun, P. Godefroy, Winlight Optics (France)
- 7018 2O **SWIFT de-magnifying image slicer: diffraction limited image slicing at optical wavelengths** [7018-98]
M. Tecza, N. Thatte, F. Clarke, L. Fogarty, T. Goodsall, G. Salter, Univ. of Oxford (United Kingdom); D. Freeman, Consultant (United Kingdom); Y. Salaun, Winlight Optics (France)
- 7018 2P **The AstroPhotonica Europa partnership** [7018-99]
J. Allington-Smith, Univ. of Durham (United Kingdom)
- 7018 2Q **Evaluation of volume phase holographic gratings at cryogenic temperatures** [7018-100]
J. A. Arns, Kaiser Optical Systems, Inc. (United States); S. A. Smee, R. H. Barkhouser, Johns Hopkins Univ. (United States); M. Benson, Kaiser Optical Systems, Inc. (United States)
- 7018 2R **Million object spectrograph** [7018-101]
T. D. Ditto, DeWitt Brothers Tool Co., Inc. (United States); J. M. Ritter, Institute for Astronomy, Univ. of Hawaii (United States)
- 7018 2S **Micromirror array for multi object spectroscopy in ground-based and space telescopes** [7018-102]
S. Waldis, Univ. of Neuchatel (Switzerland); F. Zamkotsian, P. Lanzoni, Lab. d'Astrophysique de Marseille, CNRS (France); W. Noell, N. de Rooij, Univ. of Neuchatel (Switzerland)

SESSION 16 **OPTICAL FIBERS**

- 7018 2T **Focal ratio degradation and transmission in VIRUS-P optical fibers** [7018-104]
J. D. Murphy, The Univ. of Texas at Austin (United States); P. J. MacQueen, G. J. Hill, The Univ. of Texas at Austin, McDonald Observatory (United States); F. Grupp, Univ.-Sternwarte, München (Germany); A. Kelz, Astrophysikalisches Institut Potsdam (Germany); P. Palunas, The Univ. of Texas at Austin, McDonald Observatory (United States) and Las Campanas Observatory (Chile); M. Roth, Univ.-Sternwarte, München (Germany); A. Fry, The Univ. of Texas at Austin (United States)
- 7018 2U **Focal ratio degradation: a new perspective** [7018-105]
D. M. Haynes, Macquarie Univ. (Australia) and Anglo-Australian Observatory (Australia); M. J. Withford, J. M. Dawes, Macquarie Univ. (Australia); R. Haynes, Anglo-Australian Observatory (Australia); J. Bland-Hawthorn, Univ. of Sydney (Australia)

- 7018 2V **Performance of Echidna fiber positioner for FMOS on Subaru** [7018-106]
M. Akiyama, Astronomical Institute, Tohoku Univ. (Japan) and Subaru Telescope, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (United States); S. Smedley, P. Gillingham, J. Brzeski, T. Farrell, Anglo-Australian Observatory (Australia); M. Kimura, Subaru Telescope, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (United States); R. Muller, Anglo-Australian Observatory (Australia); N. Tamura, N. Takato, Subaru Telescope, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (United States)

SESSION 17 COATINGS AND FILTERS

- 7018 2W **Narrowband filters and broadband mirrors for the spectral range from 50 to 200 nm** [7018-108]
M. Fernández-Perea, M. Vidal-Dasilva, J. I. Larruquert, J. A. Méndez, J. A. Aznárez, GOLD, Instituto de Física Aplicada-Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (Spain)
- 7018 2Z **Coating of large-sized optics for the instruments of observation** [7018-111]
D. Mouricaud, Sagem DS (France)
- 7018 30 **Near-infrared bandpass filters with improved transparency for 1000nm spectral region using sputtered silicon compound films** [7018-112]
H. J. B. Orr, M. Wallace, NDC Infrared Engineering Ltd. (United Kingdom); G. B. Dalton, Oxford Astrophysics, Univ. of Oxford (United Kingdom)

POSTER SESSION: OPTICAL FABRICATION

- 7018 32 **Design of 2.5m optical fabrication machine for astronomical mirrors** [7018-113]
Y. Zheng, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology (China) and Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); Y. Li, D. Wang, B. Liang, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology (China)
- 7018 33 **New design deforming controlling system of the active stressed lap** [7018-114]
Y. Li, D. Wang, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology (China)
- 7018 35 **Removal of diamond-turning signatures on x-ray mandrels and metal optics by fluid-jet polishing** [7018-118]
A. Beaucamp, R. Freeman, R. Morton, K. Ponudurai, Zeeko Ltd. (United Kingdom); D. D. Walker, Zeeko Ltd. (United Kingdom) and OptIC Technium (United Kingdom)

POSTER SESSION: FOCAL PLANE ASSEMBLIES

- 7018 36 **High precise measurement of tiny angle dimensional holes for the unit-holes of the LAMOST Focal Plane Plate** [7018-120]
Z. Zhou, Y. Jin, C. Zhai, X. Xing, Univ. of Science and Technology of China (China)
- 7018 37 **Design and construction of a focal plane slicing mirror** [7018-121]
D. Magrin, E. Giro, F. Bortoletto, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova (Italy); G. Crimi, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy); C. Pernechele, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Cagliari (Italy); R. Tomelleri, Tomelleri Srl (Italy)

- 7018 38 **ALMA front end amplitude calibration device design and measured performances** [7018-122]
J. M. Casalta, A. Molins, M. Bassas, M. Canchado, E. Creus, A. Tomàs, NTE S.A. (Spain)

POSTER SESSION: MATERIALS

- 7018 39 **Toward a large lightweight mirror for AO: development of a 1m Ni coated CFRP mirror** [7018-123]
S. J. Thompson, A. P. Doel, D. Brooks, Univ. College London (United Kingdom);
M. Strangwood, The Univ. of Birmingham (United Kingdom)
- 7018 3A **Rapidly solidified aluminium for optical applications** [7018-125]
G. P. H. Gubbels, B. W. H. van Venrooy, TNO Science and Industry (Netherlands);
A. J. Bosch, R. Senden, RSP Technology B.V. (Netherlands)
- 7018 3B **Forty years of ZERODUR mirror substrates for astronomy: review and outlook** [7018-126]
T. Döhring, R. Jedamzik, A. Thomas, P. Hartmann, SCHOTT AG (Germany)
- 7018 3C **Meter class carbon fiber reinforced polymer (CFRP) telescope program at the Naval Research Laboratory** [7018-127]
S. R. Restaino, T. Martinez, J. R. Andrews, C. C. Wilcox, F. Santiago, Naval Research Lab. (United States); S. Teare, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (United States); R. Romeo, R. Martin, Composite Mirror Applications, Inc. (United States); D. Wick, Sandia National Labs. (United States)
- 7018 3D **Picometer resolution interferometric characterization of the dimensional stability of zero CTE CFRP** [7018-128]
J. Cordero Machado, EADS Astrium GmbH (Germany) and Escuela Superior de Ingenieros de Sevilla (Spain); T. Heinrich, EADS Astrium GmbH (Germany) and Eidgenössische Technische Univ. Zürich (Switzerland); T. Schuld, Humboldt-Univ. zu Berlin (Germany) and Hochschule Konstanz (Germany); M. Gohlke, EADS Astrium GmbH (Germany) and Humboldt-Univ. zu Berlin (Germany); S. Lucarelli, D. Weise, U. Johann, EADS Astrium GmbH (Germany); A. Peters, Humboldt-Univ. zu Berlin (Germany); C. Braxmaier, EADS Astrium GmbH (Germany) and Hochschule Konstanz (Germany)
- 7018 3F **Study of simple CFRP-metal joint failure** [7018-130]
J. Cheng, A. Rodriguez, N. Emerson, A. Symmes, National Radio Astronomy Observatory (United States)

Part Three

- 7018 3G **Composite materials applied to the E-ELT structure** [7018-131]
E. Pajuelo, J. R. Gómez, B. Ronquillo, MEDIA Consultores (Spain); E. Brunetto, F. Koch, European Southern Observatory (Germany)

- 7018 3H **Application of zero-expansion pore-free ceramics to a mirror of an astronomical telescope** [7018-132]
H. Akitaya, M. Iye, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (Japan); K. Okita, Okayama Astrophysical Observatory, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (Japan); M. Sato, National Institute for Fusion Science (Japan); H. Matsuo, Nihon Ceratec Co., Ltd. (Japan); T. Itazu, T. Uno, M. Yamaguchi, Nagase Integrex Co., Ltd. (Japan); Z. Tanaka, Yamagata Research Institute of Technology (Japan); T. Yamashita, K. S. Kawabata, M. Uemura, Hiroshima Astrophysical Science Ctr., Hiroshima Univ. (Japan); M. Kurita, Nagoya Univ. (Japan)

POSTER SESSION: SEGMENT MIRROR TECHNOLOGIES

- 7018 3I **Design of M_B sub-mirror handling manipulator for LAMOST** [7018-134]
H. Zuo, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology (China) and Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); G. Li, F. Jiang, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology (China)

POSTER SESSION: TEST AND METROLOGY

- 7018 3K **Testing large aspheric surfaces with complementary annular subaperture interferometric method** [7018-137]
X. Hou, Institute of Optics and Electronics (China) and Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); F. Wu, Institute of Optics and Electronics (China); B. Lei, Institute of Optics and Electronics (China) and Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); B. Fan, Q. Chen, Institute of Optics and Electronics (China)
- 7018 3L **Static telescope aberration measurement and correction using lucky imaging techniques** [7018-138]
M. López Marrero, Univ. of La Laguna (Spain); L. F. Rodríguez Ramos, Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (Spain); J. M. Rodríguez Ramos, Univ. of La Laguna (Spain)
- 7018 3M **Mechanical alignment of tertiary mirror and positioner on the LMT telescope** [7018-139]
D. M. Gale, Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica y Electrónica (Mexico)
- 7018 3N **Camera calibration of the stereo vision measurement system** [7018-140]
W. Li, B. Li, X. Li, Univ. of Science & Technology of China (China)
- 7018 3Q **Correlation functions formed by a femtosecond pulse interferometer** [7018-143]
M. Cui, N. Bhattacharya, H. P. Urbach, Technical Univ. Delft (Netherlands); S. A. van den Berg, NMi Van Swinden Lab. (Netherlands)
- 7018 3R **Theoretical study of long-distance measurement using frequency comb laser** [7018-144]
M. Zeitouny, N. Bhattacharya, H. P. Urbach, Technical Univ. Delft (Netherlands); S. A. van den Berg, NMi Van Swinden Lab. (Netherlands)
- 7018 3S **Diamond machining of aspherical mirrors and mirror arrays for Integral Field Units: Part II. Metrology** [7018-145]
S. Rolt, D. R. Robertson, Univ. of Durham (United Kingdom)

- 7018 3T **Scanning pentaprism measurements of off-axis aspherics** [7018-146]
P. Su, College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States); J. H. Burge, College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States) and Steward Observatory, The Univ. of Arizona (United States); B. Cuerden, Steward Observatory, The Univ. of Arizona (United States); J. Sasian, College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States); H. M. Martin, Steward Observatory, The Univ. of Arizona (United States)
- 7018 3U **Measurements of large optical surfaces with a laser tracker** [7018-147]
T. L. Zobrist, College of Optical Sciences, Univ. of Arizona (United States); J. H. Burge, College of Optical Sciences, Univ. of Arizona (United States) and Steward Observatory, Univ. of Arizona (United States); W. B. Davison, H. M. Martin, Steward Observatory, Univ. of Arizona (United States)
- 7018 3V **Improved telescope focus using only two focus images** [7018-149]
G. Barrick, T. Vermeulen, J. Thomas, Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope (United States)
- 7018 3W **Increasing observing efficiency by modeling telescope focus positions** [7018-150]
S. Gajadhar, D. Salmon, G. Barrick, Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope (United States)

POSTER SESSION: ATMOSPHERIC COMPENSATION AND ADAPTIVE OPTICS

- 7018 3Y **Principle of a linear phase retrieval method and its application in adaptive optics system** [7018-53]
X. Li, Institute of Optics and Electronics (China); M. Li, B. Chen, Institute of Optics and Electronics (China) and Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); W. Jiang, Institute of Optics and Electronics (China)
- 7018 40 **Free-forms optics into astronomical use: the case of an all-mirror anamorphic collimator** [7018-153]
P. Spanò, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy)
- 7018 41 **VILLAges: opto-mechanical design of an on-sky visible-light MEMS-based AO system** [7018-154]
B. Grigsby, C. Lockwood, UCO/Lick Observatory, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz (United States); B. Baumann, Lawrence Livermore National Lab. (United States); D. Gavel, J. Johnson, S. M. Ammons, D. Dillon, K. Morzinski, M. Reinig, UCO/Lick Observatory, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz (United States); D. Palmer, Lawrence Livermore National Lab. (United States); S. Severson, Sonoma State Univ. (United States); E. Gates, UCO/Lick Observatory, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz (United States)

POSTER SESSION: TELESCOPE STRUCTURES AND ACTIVE INSTRUMENTS

- 7018 42 **One Arc PMSM for telescope tracking system** [7018-61]
C. Ren, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology (China) and Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); Z. Zhang, D. Wang, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology (China); W. Hu, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology (China) and Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); Z. Zhu, Nanjing Univ. of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China)

- 7018 43 **The MMT f/5 optical baffles** [7018-155]
 S. Callahan, MMT Observatory (United States); N. Caldwell, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (United States); G. G. Williams, C. Chute, T. E. Pickering, MMT Observatory (United States)
- 7018 44 **The VST tracking system and its preliminary performance** [7018-156]
 P. Schipani, M. Brescia, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Capodimonte (Italy); S. Sandrock, European Southern Observatory, Paranal Observatory (Chile); T. Erm, European Southern Observatory (Germany)
- 7018 45 **The VST secondary mirror support system** [7018-157]
 P. Schipani, F. Perrotta, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Capodimonte (Italy); C. Molfese, O. Caputi, L. Ferragina, L. Marty, INAF-VSTCeN (Italy); M. Capaccioli, INAF-VSTCeN (Italy) and Univ. degli Studi Federico II (Italy); D. Gallieni, P. Fumi, E. Anacletio, P. Lazzarini, ADS International s.r.l. (Italy); G. De Paris, INAF-Sede Centrale Viale del Parco Mellini (Italy)
- 7018 46 **Introduction of a 2.5m telescope mount** [7018-158]
 B. Gu, G. Wang, J. Xiang, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics and Technology (China)
- 7018 47 **Analysis and optimization of a 2.5m telescope mount** [7018-159]
 G. Wang, Z. Zhang, B. Gu, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics and Technology (China)
- 7018 48 **Design and analysis of cushioning packing box for Chinese Small Telescope Array**
 [7018-160]
 X. Gong, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology (China) and Chinese Ctr. for Antarctic Astronomy (China); L. Xia, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology (China) and Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); R. Zhang, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology (China)
- 7018 49 **Simulation for the active reflector of the FAST 30m model** [7018-161]
 Y. Guo, National Astronomical Observatories (China) and Yunnan Astronomical Observatory (China); Q. Wang, R. Nan, National Astronomical Observatories (China)
- 7018 4A **Development of active reflector of the 30-meter FAST model** [7018-162]
 Q. Wang, L. Zhu, R. Nan, National Astronomical Observatories (China)
- 7018 4B **Error analysis of friction drive elements** [7018-163]
 G. Wang, S. Yang, D. Wang, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology (China)
- 7018 4C **The Large Binocular Telescope primary mirror support control system description and current performance results** [7018-164]
 D. S. Ashby, J. Kern, J. M. Hill, Large Binocular Telescope Observatory, The Univ. of Arizona (United States); W. B. Davison, B. Cuerden, Steward Observatory, The Univ. of Arizona (United States); J. G. Brynnel, C. Biddick, Large Binocular Telescope Observatory, The Univ. of Arizona (United States); K. Duffek, Steward Observatory, The Univ. of Arizona (United States)

7018 4D	Prototype 0.4 meter carbon fiber reinforced polymer (CFRP) telescope: specifications and initial testing [7018-166] J. R. Andrews, S. R. Restaino, T. Martinez, C. C. Wilcox, F. Santiago, Naval Research Lab. (United States); S. Teare, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (United States); R. Romeo, R. Martin, Composite Mirror Applications (United States); D. Wick, Sandia National Labs. (United States)
7018 4E	Hydrostatic bearing arrangement for high stiffness support of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope [7018-168] D. R. Neill, V. L. Krabbendam, National Optical Astronomy Observatory (United States); M. Romero, K.-O. Olsson, SKF Sverige AB (Sweden); T. G. Benigni, SKF USA (United States)
7018 4F	Performance prediction of the TMT tertiary mirror support system [7018-169] M. K. Cho, National Optical Astronomy Observatory (United States)
7018 4G	Big innovations in a small instrument: technical challenges in a new CCD system design for the Automated Patrol Telescope [7018-170] S. Miziarski, Anglo-Australian Observatory (Australia); M. C. B. Ashley, Univ. of New South Wales (Australia); G. Smith, S. Barden, J. Dawson, A. Horton, W. Saunders, J. Brzeski, V. Churilov, U. Klauser, L. Waller, D. Mayfield, D. Correll, Anglo-Australian Observatory (Australia); A. Phillips, Univ. of New South Wales (Australia); D. Whittard, Anglo-Australian Observatory (Australia)

POSTER SESSION: SPACE INSTRUMENTATION AND CRYOGENICS

7018 4H	Cold chopper system for mid-infrared instruments [7018-172] T. Nakamura, Institute of Astronomy, The Univ. of Tokyo (Japan) and The Univ. of Tokyo (Japan); T. Miyata, S. Sako, Institute of Astronomy, The Univ. of Tokyo (Japan); T. Onaka, The Univ. of Tokyo (Japan); K. Enya, H. Kataza, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (Japan); H. Takahashi, Gunma Astronomical Observatory (Japan); Y. Obuchi, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (Japan)
7018 4I	Active optics theory: compensation of aberration using the single actuator principle [7018-173] E. Hugot, M. Ferrari, G. R. Lemaître, F. Madec, Univ. de Provence Aix-Marseille I, Lab. d'Astrophysique de Marseille, CNRS (France)
7018 4J	Alignment of the three-mirror anastigmat of the GIANO-TNG high resolution infrared spectrometer [7018-174] I. Mochi, INAF-Osservatorio di Arcetri (Italy); E. Oliva, INAF-Osservatorio di Arcetri (Italy) and Telescopio Nazionale Galileo (Spain); L. Vanzi, Pontificia Univ. Catolica de Chile (Chile)
7018 4K	Design and development of a cryogenic high-accuracy refractometer [7018-175] P. Spanò, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy); A. Bianco, INAF-Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica (Italy); G. Toso, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Italy); M. Canetti, Rial Vacuum S.p.A. (Italy); A. Battocchio, SKG Italia S.p.A. (Italy)

- 7018 4L **A contamination control cover for the Mid Infrared Instrument of the James Webb Space Telescope** [7018-176]
A. M. Glauser, Paul Scherrer Institut (Switzerland); U. Langer, RUAG Aerospace (Switzerland); A. Zehnder, Paul Scherrer Institut (Switzerland); M. Güdel, Paul Scherrer Institut (Switzerland) and Institute of Astronomy, ETH Hönggerberg (Switzerland)
- 7018 4M **The cryogenic system for the VIRUS array of spectrographs on the Hobby-Eberly Telescope** [7018-177]
M. P. Smith, McDonald Observatory, The Univ. of Texas at Austin (United States); G. T. Mulholland, Applied Cryogenics Technology (United States); J. A. Booth, J. M. Good, G. J. Hill, P. J. MacQueen, M. D. Rafal, R. D. Savage, B. L. Vattiat, McDonald Observatory, The Univ. of Texas at Austin (United States)
- 7018 4N **Piezo-driven adjustment of a cryogenic detector** [7018-178]
J. H. Pragt, R. van den Brink, G. Kroes, N. Tromp, ASTRON (Netherlands); J.-B. Ochs, Hanzehogeschool Groningen (Netherlands)

POSTER SESSION: SPECTROSCOPY

- 7018 4O **The SIDE dual VIS-NIR fiber fed spectrograph for the 10.4 m Gran Telescopio Canarias** [7018-179]
O. Rabaza, Institute of Astrophysics of Andalucia (Spain); H. W. Epps, UCO/Lick Observatory, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz (United States); M. Ubierna, J. Sánchez, M. Azzaro, F. Prada, Institute of Astrophysics of Andalucia (Spain)
- 7018 4P **A new factory for silicon grisms** [7018-180]
F. Vitali, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma (Italy); V. Foglietti, E. Cianci, CNR, Istituto di Fotonica e Nanotecnologie (Italy); D. Lorenzetti, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma (Italy)
- 7018 4Q **Fabrication and testing of diamond-machined gratings in ZnSe, GaP, and bismuth germanate for the near-infrared and visible** [7018-181]
P. J. Kuzmenko, S. L. Little, Lawrence Livermore National Lab. (United States); Y. Ikeda, Photocoding Inc. (Japan); N. Kobayashi, Institute of Astronomy, Univ. of Tokyo (Japan)
- 7018 4R **Diamond-machined ZnSe immersion grating for NIR high-resolution spectroscopy** [7018-183]
Y. Ikeda, Photocoding (Japan); N. Kobayashi, Institute of Astronomy, Univ. of Tokyo (Japan); P. J. Kuzmenko, S. L. Little, Lawrence Livermore National Lab. (United States); C. Yasui, S. Kondo, A. Minami, K. Motohara, Institute of Astronomy, Univ. of Tokyo (Japan)
- 7018 4S **Novel direct vision prism and Wollaston prism assembly for diffraction limit applications** [7018-184]
N. Ebizuka, Konan Univ. (Japan), Nagoya Univ. (Japan), and RIKEN (Japan); H. Yokota, RIKEN (Japan); F. Kajino, Konan Univ. (Japan); K. S. Kawabata, Astrophysical Science Ctr., Hiroshima Univ. (Japan); M. Iye, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (Japan); S. Sato, Nagoya Univ. (Japan)

- 7018 4T **Performances of NIR VPHGs at cryogenic temperatures** [7018-185]
M. Insausti, F. Garzón, J. L. Rasilla, Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (Spain); P.-A. Blanche, Univ. de Liège (Belgium) and College of Optical Sciences, The Univ. of Arizona (United States); P. Lemaire, Univ. de Liège (Belgium)
- 7018 4U **VPH grating technology for the Thirty Meter Telescope instrumentation program** [7018-186]
J. S. Pazder, National Research Council Canada, Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics (Canada); J. C. Clemens, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (United States)
- 7018 4V **The LNA VPH characterization experiment** [7018-187]
F. F. Ribeiro, O. J. Katime-Santrich, Lab. Nacional de Astrofísica, MCT (Brazil) and Univ. Federal de Itajubá (Brazil); C. D. Gneidling, B. V. Castilho, R. P. Campos, R. A. Nicolau, Lab. Nacional de Astrofísica, MCT (Brazil)

POSTER SESSION: FIBERS

- 7018 4W **Optical fiber scrambling and light pipes for high accuracy radial velocities measurements** [7018-188]
G. Avila, P. Singh, European Southern Observatory (Germany)
- 7018 4X **innoFSPEC: fiber optical spectroscopy and sensing** [7018-189]
M. M. Roth, Astrophysikalisches Institut Potsdam (Germany); H.-G. Löhmannsröben, Univ. Potsdam (Germany); A. Kelz, Astrophysikalisches Institut Potsdam (Germany); M. Kumke, Univ. Potsdam (Germany)
- 7018 4Y **Coupling efficiency and termination of photonic crystal fibres for astronomy** [7018-190]
C. Poppett, J. Allington-Smith, Durham Univ. (United Kingdom)
- 7018 4Z **Wireless control study of LAMOST fiber positioning based on Zigbee** [7018-191]
C. Zhai, L. Xue, H. Wang, Univ. of Science and Technology of China (China)
- 7018 50 **LBNL fiber positioners for wide-field spectroscopy** [7018-205]
D. Schlegel, B. Ghiorso, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (United States)

POSTER SESSION: COATINGS AND FILTERS

- 7018 51 **Metallic mirror experiment with 1.6 m coating machine** [7018-192]
J. Wang, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics and Technology (China) and Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); L. Qiao, X. Li, X. Cui, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics and Technology (China)
- 7018 52 **Hard infrared black coating with very low outgassing** [7018-193]
P. J. Kuzmenko, D. M. Behne, Lawrence Livermore National Lab. (United States); T. Casserly, W. Boardman, D. Upadhyaya, K. Boinapally, M. Gupta, Y. Cao, Sub-One Technology, Inc. (United States)
- 7018 53 **Developing metal mesh filters for mid-infrared astronomy of 25 to 40 micron** [7018-194]
S. Sako, T. Miyata, Institute of Astronomy, The Univ. of Tokyo (Japan); T. Nakamura, Institute of Astronomy, The Univ. of Tokyo (Japan) and The Univ. of Tokyo (Japan); T. Onaka, The Univ. of Tokyo (Japan); Y. Ikeda, Photocoding (Japan); H. Kataza, Japan Aerospace

- Exploration Agency (Japan)
- 7018 54 **Multi-wavelength Šolc birefringent filter** [7018-195]
R. Melich, Z. Melich, I. Šolc, Institute of Plasma Physics (Czech Republic)
- 7018 55 **Visible and near-infrared filters for miniaturized spectrometers** [7018-196]
A. Piegari, A. K. Sychkova, I. Di Sarcina, ENEA (Italy); J. Bulir, ENEA (Italy) and Institute of Physics (Czech Republic)
- 7018 56 **Design of high-resolution variable size spatial filter for Gemini Planet Imager using flexure elements** [7018-197]
V. Reshetov, J. Fitzsimmons, Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, National Research Council Canada (Canada)
- 7018 57 **Qualification of stray light reduction surface treatment: Black Meudon on 6061 T 651 aluminium alloy mechanical components** [7018-198]
J. Amiaux, J. L. Auguères, M. Bouzat, CEA/IRFU/SAp (France); M. Cerisier, CEA/CESTA/DEF/SEMR/LTO (France); D. Desforge, CEA/IRFU/SEDI (France); R. Dohem, ESTEC (Netherlands); D. Dubreuil, CEA/IRFU/SAp (France); O. Dupuis, CNRS LESIA (France); M. Falcolini, ESTEC (Netherlands); J. Kirman, Protection des Métaux (France); P. O. Lagage, CEA/IRFU/SAp (France) and CNRS AIM, Unité Mixte CEA (France); Th. Lanternier, CEA/CESTA/DEF/SEMR/LTO (France); A. Marcel, F. Meigner, CEA/IRFU/SEDI (France); P. Perrin, CEA/IRFU/SIS (France); S. Ronayette, CEA/IRFU/SAp (France); S. Salasca, CEA/IRFU/SEDI (France); E. Saraiva, INTERSPACE (France); G. Tauzin, CEA/IRFU/SEDI (France); S. Poupar, CNRS AIR, Unité Mixte CEA (France); J. M. Reess, CNRS LESIA (France)
- 7018 58 **Surface cleaning of CCD imagers using an electrostatic dissipative formulation of First Contact polymer** [7018-199]
G. Derylo, J. Estrada, B. Flaughier, Fermi National Accelerator Lab. (United States); J. Hamilton, Univ. of Wisconsin, Platteville (United States); D. Kubik, K. Kuk, V. Scarpine, Fermi National Accelerator Lab. (United States)
- 7018 59 **Prototyping of differential optics for the SPHERE IRDIS dual imaging planet finder camera** [7018-200]
K. Dohlen, M. Saisse, A. Origne, G. Moreaux, C. Fabron, F. Zamkotsian, P. Lanzoni, Lab. d'Astrophysique de Marseille, CNRS, Univ. de Provence (France); F. Lemarquis, Institut Fresnel, CNRS, Domaine Univ. de Saint-Jérôme (France)
- 7018 5A **Progress toward high-performance reflective and anti-reflection coatings for astronomical optics** [7018-201]
A. C. Phillips, J. Miller, W. Brown, D. Hilyard, B. Dupraw, V. Wallace, D. Cowley, UCO/Lick Observatory, Univ of California, Santa Cruz (United States)
- 7018 5B **Experiments using First Contact polymer as a final cleaning step for aluminizing** [7018-203]
G. Barrick, M. Baril, T. Benedict, Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope (United States); P. Jackson, Photonic Cleaning Technologies (United States); J. Hamilton, Photonic Cleaning Technologies (United States) and Univ. of Wisconsin, Platteville (United States)

Author Index

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Session Chairs

- 1 Optical Fabrication I
Eli Atad-Ettedgui, UK Astronomy Technology Center/The Royal Observatory Edinburgh (United Kingdom)
- 2 Optical Fabrication II
Roland Geyl, SAGEM SA (France)
- 3 Focal Plane Assemblies
Eli Atad-Ettedgui, UK Astronomy Technology Center/The Royal Observatory Edinburgh (United Kingdom)

- 4 Materials
Peter Hartmann, SCHOTT AG Mainz (United States)
- 5 Segment Mirror Technologies
Daniel R. Blanco, National Optical Astronomy Observatory (United States)
- 6 Test and Metrology I
Eric Prieto, Observatoire Astronomique de Marseille Provence (France)
- 7 Test and Metrology II
Daniel R. Blanco, National Optical Astronomy Observatory (United States)
- 8 Atmospheric Compensation and Adaptive Optics
Jan-Willem Pel, University of Groningen (Netherlands)
- 9 Telescope Structure and Active Instruments I
Joseph Antebi, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Inc. (United States)
- 10 Telescope Structure and Active Instruments II
Joseph Antebi, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Inc. (United States)
- 11 Telescope Structure and Active Instruments III
David R. Smith, Mechanical Engineering Research Laboratory P.C. (United States)
- 12 Space Instrumentation and Cryogenics I
Dietrich Lemke, Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie (Germany)
- 13 Space Instrumentation and Cryogenics II
Dietrich Lemke, Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie (Germany)
- 14 Ground Based Instrumentation and Cryogenics
Jan-Willem Pel, University of Groningen (Netherlands)
- 15 Innovations in Spectroscopy
Colin R. Cunningham, UK Astronomy Technology Center/The Royal Observatory Edinburgh (United Kingdom)
- 16 Optical Fibers
Colin R. Cunningham, UK Astronomy Technology Center/The Royal Observatory Edinburgh (United Kingdom)
- 17 Coatings and Filters
Eli Atad-Ettedgui, UK Astronomy Technology Center/The Royal Observatory Edinburgh (United Kingdom)

Introduction

This conference, hosted in sunny and hot Marseille, gave an opportunity and a forum for opto-mechanical engineers and scientists to present and discuss the state-of-the-art technologies in astronomical telescopes and instrumentation. The topics covered were: optical fabrication, materials, segment mirror technologies, test and metrology, atmospheric compensation and adaptive optics, telescope structure and active instruments, cryogenic space and ground-based instrumentation, innovations in spectroscopy, optical fibers, and coatings and filters. The good response to the call for papers (205 papers) resulted in oral presentations from Monday morning until Saturday evening, and in a large number of poster presentations (about 40% of all papers).

In optical fabrication, we are looking at a revolution in technologies used in polishing and testing lightweight mirrors with extreme aspheric surfaces (up to 14-mm asphericity). Computer generated holograms (CGH) and laser trackers are currently used to test those challenging components. A 4-m F/1 Zerodur aspherical mirror (1-mm asphericity) was manufactured with a 25nm rms WFE across the full clear aperture. The optical design of the new generation of survey and giant telescopes such as the E-ELT, the TMT or the GMT require very large and very fast mirrors. Moreover, the making of these telescopes relies on mastering major design and technological challenges, one of which is the production of giant primary mirrors (with up to thousands of large segmented mirrors of 1- to 2-m size) which need to be reliably pipeline manufactured and tested over several years. The primary blank for a large telescope of today can now only serve as a secondary to these future giants.

In materials, we are also looking at a mini revolution with the introduction of novel materials (Al-Be) and the improvement of existing materials (Zerodur, SiC) for mirrors. Although Zerodur was considered to be outdated already at past conferences, its superior qualities in polishing, transparent testing, and CTE still give it a future. New are optical materials with a high degree of homogeneity for very large lenses (N-BK7/LLF1...) used in field correctors and atmospheric dispersion correction.

The situation is similarly challenging for space-based astronomy. Due to the limited transportation volume and mass, large space telescopes need highly reliable deployment mechanisms combined with sensors and actuators for their figuring, all to be operated in the space cryo-vacuum as well as under laboratory conditions. Space focal plane instruments combine many observing modes in a very limited volume and therefore require a diversity of precise optical cryo-mechanisms to be operated with a minimum of power and to be rigid enough to survive the harsh rocket launch.

As we embarked on developing the structures and mechanisms for these sophisticated and ever more complex telescopes and their instrumentation, we examined the state-of-the-art, the lessons learned, the new tools available, and explore what may lie ahead for the future of this ever-growing area. Several of these talks were presented in a very exciting and entertaining style; in particular, the commissioning of the 11 m SALT telescope sounds like a detective story.

Innovations in spectroscopy are now almost ready to be implemented: massively replicated MEMS spectrograph, very large image slicers, introduction of volume phase holographic components at cryogenic temperatures, and multi-object spectroscopy using micromirror arrays. These techniques will be used in future large survey telescopes and instruments.

We extend special thanks to the program committee and presenters for their contributions and look forward to see you again in San Diego in 2010.

Eli Atad-Ettedgui
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