



ESO Council Confirms Director-General Appointment

At its 24th meeting, held in Hamburg on December 5/6, 1974, the Council of ESO confirmed the appointment of Professor Lodewijk Woltjer as Director-General of the Organization. Professor Woltjer succeeded Professor A. Blaauw in this office on January 1, 1975 for a five-year term.

The new Director-General is from the Netherlands and he obtained his doctorate at Leiden University in 1957. He subsequently held a teaching post in astrophysics there.

For the past ten years he has been teaching at Columbia University, New York, most recently as Rutherford Professor of Astronomy. He was chairman of the Department of Astronomy at this University where he rejuvenated the astronomical institute with emphasis on theoretical astrophysics and expanded the observational facilities by creating an observing station outside New York City. Although not primarily an observational astronomer himself, Prof. Woltjer takes a deep interest in the requirements and possibilities of modern observational astronomy.

Prof. Woltjer has also for about a decade been the editor of the "Astronomical Journal", one of the leading astronomical journals of the world.

The Director-General's publications include articles on magnetic fields in stars and galaxies, on radio and X-ray sources and other topics in theoretical astrophysics. Throughout his career, Prof. Woltjer has maintained close relations with astronomers in Europe and has been a consultant to large projects on this continent. He has been familiar with the work of ESO for many years and was appointed to the Scientific Policy Committee in 1973. One of his main tasks in the present year will be to offer the ESO Council more detailed plans for the Organization's future, including restructuring and closer integration between the Chile and Europe establishments.



Prof. L. Woltjer

The present year is critical for the future of ESO. Important changes are about to take place in the structure of ESO both in Europe and in Chile with the aim of strengthening the scientific identity of the organization and of improving the integration of its geographical subdivisions. As a result ESO should be ready next year to meet its most important commitment — namely, to put its large telescope into full and effective use. I am confident that I can count on the cooperation of everybody in ESO in achieving this goal.



Prof. A. Blaauw

Now that Professor Woltjer has taken over from me the duties of Director-General of ESO, I wish him very successful and enjoyable years in this post. Prof. Woltjer assumes office at a time when there are a number of very important tasks to be carried out; ESO is entering a phase in which a new and more efficient structure is to be developed, with renewed emphasis on the scientific aspects. We know that Prof. Woltjer has prepared himself specially for these tasks and we wish him the best of luck in their fulfillment.