Title: Testing the AO Facility at ESO HQ- Period 1/4, February-June 2014: The GRAAL Maintenance and Commissioning Mode.

Date: Monday 28th July 2014 and Friday 1st August 2014 at12:00

Venue: Old Auditorium (Telescopium) with JOHANN KOLB

Abstract:

Until end of 2015, the 2 Wavefront Sensing modules GRAAL and GALACSI of the AO Facility will be tested at ESO HQ on a dedicated setup called ASSIST simulating the VLT environment and including Natural and Laser Guide Stars, atmospheric turbulence, and the Deformable Secondary Mirror (DSM) in its optical path. The first part (out of 4) of those tests has been completed; it consisted in the characterization of an NGS SCAO mode in GRAAL: The Maintenance and Commissioning Mode (MCM).

Only at the end of this 2-part presentation will the AO results be presented, but before that I will describe the strategy put in place to test this complex system, detail the methods used to test an AO system (example: how to measure the WFS pixel scale and why we do so), provide a full list of the problems encountered in order to share our experience with the audience, spend some time on getting you familiar with the handling of the heart of the AO system: the Interaction Matrix, and finally show not only the performance of the AO correction buy also of the GRAAL instrument getting ready to be operated at Paranal: acquisition, offload…