

New High Strehl Instrument

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With the arrival of MUSE the NACO instrument will be decommissioned and the diffraction limited imaging capabilities of VLT will be lost. In order to overcome this problem a pre-phase A study was launched to identify a possible replacement of NACO, which will benefit from the AOF infrastructure.

Several options were proposed ranging from narrow to wide field AO correction using either the Cassegrain or the Nasmyth focus of UT4. Those options were presented at the Trade-off review in November 2010.

In this talk we present the different options investigated during the pre-phase A, the recommendations of the Trade-Off review and the final decision of ESO's management.

Finally the next steps toward the NACO replacement will be briefly outlined.