

Name of research institute or organization:

Center for Space and Habitability, Universität Bern

Title of project:

Stellarium Gornergrat

Project leader and team:

Prof. Kathrin Altwegg, University of Bern
Peter Schlatter, University of Bern
Prof. Didier Queloz, University of Geneva

Project description:

The center for Space and Habitability, University of Bern and the Institute for Astronomy, University of Geneva are establishing an astronomical observation facility for schools on the Gornergrat. The goal of this project is to make available several telescopes, the largest having a 60cm diameter, to be used by Swiss schools for astronomical observations by remote control. While the hardware on the Gornergrat was paid for by the Burgergemeinde Zermatt, the installation of all necessary equipment as well as of the hardware related remote control is the responsibility of the University of Bern. The University of Geneva is responsible for the “astronomical” part including pedagogical modules for teachers. The telescope has been mounted and is being commissioned. The hardware related software has been prepared by HEFR, Fribourg (S. Ruffieux) and has been tested. The web-based user interface has been setup by the University of Geneva (S. Ekström). Pedagogical modules are being prepared by S. Gschwind (Geneva) and B. Muntwyler (Bern) under the supervision of A. Müller (Geneva). On March 1, 2014, the first course for teachers will take place at the Pädagogische Hochschule in Bern, sponsored by the SANW and in April 2014, the first test classes will start using the modules.

Once the Stellarium has reached this operational phase, the leader of the telescope will be Dr. Timm Riesen at the University of Bern, bringing a lot of expertise as teacher and observing astronomer (Mauna Kea, Hawaii) with him.



Figure 1. First light from the RiLA 600 (Riccardi large Astrograph 600mm F/3.7)

Key words:

Telescope, astronomy for schools

Internet data bases:

<http://www.facebook.com/stellariumgornergrat>

Collaborating partners/networks:

University of Geneva
Bürgergemeinde Zermatt

Address:

Physikalisches Institut
Universität Bern
Sidlerstrasse 5
CH-3012 Bern

Contacts:

Kathrin Altwegg
Tel.: +41 31 631 4420
Fax: +41 31 631 4405
e-mail: kathrin.altwegg@space.unibe.ch
URL: <http://csh.unibe.ch>