Progress Report of the new Solar Sub-Millimeter Telescope Installation

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The Sub-Millimeter Solar Telescope (SST) project is now in his final phase of construction and a definitive schedule has been established. The 1.5 m diameter reflector has been completed by Steward Observatory, University of Arizona, presenting an excellent surface with a deviation of 18 microns (r.m.s.). The delay of the reflector construction was the result of the new technology employed, and mainly due to the slumping of the reflector which needed additional technological research (Kingsley et al. 1998). The SST building, including one 3.4 m ESSCO gore-tex radom and a room for two complementary optical imaging spectrographs (from IAP, Bern and OV, UFRJ, Brasil), has been completed now by CASLEO at El Leoncito, San Juan, Argentina. Numerous electrical, electronical, mechanical tests, as well as softwares tests, have been performed at the IAP, Bern, Switzerland, and at Itapetinga, Brasil.

The 1.5 m reflector is in Bern, already assembled to the other SST parts: four 210 and two 405 GHZ radiometers built by RPG, the ORBIT positionner, the interface box between the reflector and the radiometers, the counter-weights. Test and integration of the SST are being done at Bern, with a co-participation of researchers and technicians of CRAAE and CASLEO. The shipment of the SST to El Leoncito will be mid-October, and the final installation is scheduled for the period January-April of 1999. The first tests and solar observations are planned for May of 1999.

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