# SAACC
# User Highlights
# August 2012

R. Chris Smith

AURA Observatory in Chile

(CTIO, Gemini, SOAR, LSST, +++)

# Overview

- "May you live in interesting times": ours are certainly interesting!
- News from GMT, CTIO/DECam, ALMA, CCAT, and LSST
- NSF news coming next week from Portfolio review

# GMT

- Giant Magellan Telescope
  - Partnership led by Carnegie, including institutions from US, Australia, & Korea
- Recent Milestones
  - "Big Bang": Site preparation begun
  - Second 8.4m mirror out of oven

# CTIO/DECam

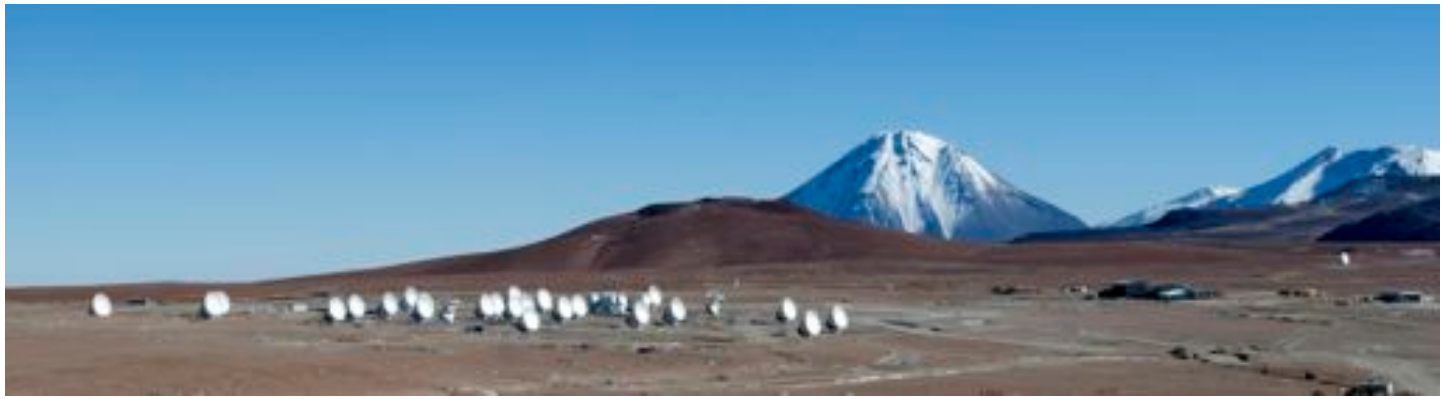
- DECam is a 570Mpix imager being installed on the CTIO Blanco 4m telescope
  - Each image is 1GB
  - Generates 0.3-0.5TB per night
  - All automatically transferred with a flexible "Data Transport System" (DTS) developed at NOAO/ Tucson
- Imager was online last month, off telescope
- First Light: End of September

# New Projects at AURA

- IRIS station – part of worldwide seismology network
- PROMT7 – robotic 0.8m IR telescope, US +German collaboration
- LCOGTN – 3x1m + 6x0.4m telescopes, part of worldwide network (6 sites)
- KASI – 1.6m telescope part of worldwide network (3 sites)
- Coming: T80S (Brazil), PROMPT8 (Thai)

# ALMA

- Cycle 1 call for proposals complete
- Science operations have begun!



- More from Giorgio Filippi

# CCAT

- 25m Sub-mm telescope at 5600m
- Partnership of US, Canadian, & German institutions

- More from Giorgio Filippi

# LSST

- A US-led NSF+DOE project
  - In the process of developing international partnerships for operations
- Passed reviews
- News from NSF

- More from Jeff Kantor

# Portfolio Review

- NSF Astronomy reviewing complete portfolio
  - In light of Decadal Survey 2010, which set priorities, combined with current budget realities
- Report due out in mid-August (next week?), NSF response in late 2012
  - Should provide insight into future astronomical projects