

Editorial

Special Letters edition: First science with APEX

In 2005, the Atacama Pathfinder Experiment submillimeter telescope (APEX) on Chanjantor in the Atacama desert in Northern Chile saw first light. APEX has been constructed to operate in the submillimeter windows between 200 and 1300 μm . It is the fruit of a collaboration between the Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie, ESO, and the Swedish Onsala Space Observatory. It is a forerunner to the ALMA telescope, which will be constructed on the same site, and will provide complementary observations to ALMA.

The Editors of Astronomy & Astrophysics recognise the importance of this event and present, in this issue of Astronomy & Astrophysics a special Letter issue on APEX. There are 6 letters describing the instrumentation and 20 letters giving first results with the spectroscopic receivers.

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