The Large Millimeter Telescope (LMT/GTM) in relation to FIRST

Enrique Gaztanaga

INAOE, Astrofísica, Luis Enrique Herro 1, Tonantzintla, 72840 Puebla, MEXICO Phone: +52 22 663100 Ext. 2303, Fax: +52 22 472231 e-mail: gazta@inaoep.mx

I will review the current status of the 50 m main reflector telescope construction at 4600 m (La Negra, Puebla, Mexico). This is the largest purely scientific project ever undertaken by Mexico. Construction is expected to be finished in 2003. The LMT is a joint INAOE (Puebla, Mexico) and Umass (Amherst, USA) project) that will operate at 0.85-3.4 mm. When fully operative the 126 panels on the active mirror are expected to provide an overall surface accuracy of 75 microns and it will be able to map 1800 arcmin/hr/mJy. (For more details see: www.lmt.gmt.org). I will briefly review the potential of the LMT/GTM to explore the high-z universe (cold and hot) in the context of the FIRST mission. The LMT/GTM complements FIRST and ALMA in many aspects, specially regarding photometric surveys (e.g. intermediate resolution, mapping speed, wavelength). To maximize the scientific return of these projects it is important to explore the possibility of overlapping key programmes.