

Optical and near-IR follow-up of the European Large Area ISO Survey

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One of the key scientific objectives of FIRST is to study extragalactic populations at high redshift by deep extragalactic photometric surveys followed by spectroscopy of selected sources. The Infrared Space Observatory has started, at shorter wavelengths, these studies with several extragalactic surveys. ELAIS (European Large Area ISO Survey) is a project that has surveyed about 13 square degrees of sky using both ISOCAM and ISOPHOT. Observations at 6.7, 15, 90 and 175 μm have been obtained. These observations together with the extensive followup programs carried out in these regions have made the ELAIS fields excellent areas for multi-wavelength observations and for future surveys with FIRST. These include radio observations using VLA, optical and near-IR, sub-mm and X-rays using Chandra and XMM. We report here the results of our imaging and spectroscopic observations carried out with telescopes at the Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos in La Palma in 2000 within the International Time Project to follow-up the ELAIS survey. More than 200 redshifts of ELAIS galaxies have been obtained. A comparison will be made with results from other, deeper, surveys over smaller areas and preliminary results on the multiwavelength SEDs of ELAIS sources will be presented.