



Product information for the trade press

Aiming for the Sun

Carl Zeiss Optronics presents solar mirror to research institute

At the end of April, Carl Zeiss Optronics presented the GREGOR M1 solar mirror to a research consortium comprised of the Kiepenheuer Institute for Solar Physics (KIS), the Leibniz Institute for Astrophysics, the Institute for Astrophysics Göttingen and the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research. The mirror was built under the full responsibility of the German optics company. Following internal lapping and polishing, it features deviation from the nominal surface of only 20 nanometers. "This corresponds to the amount of human hair that grows in six seconds, making it one of the world's most powerful solar mirrors," says Marco Tausendfreund, GREGOR M1 Project Manager.

The 1.5 meter solar mirror made of Zerodur will be installed at the Teide Observatory in the Canary Islands. Carl Zeiss Optronics was responsible for the performance of all three solar mirrors. With the delivery of the M1, the Gregor Telescope can now enter service. It replaces the 45 cm Gregor Coudé Telescope that has been used for a total of 40 years for research. The new solar telescope will make it possible to take photos of the sun with resolution down to 70 km. In the future, GREGOR will observe the sun, its magnetic field and its streams of gas. This basic research will enable long-term predictions about the near-earth events caused by the sun.

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