ESA's Flyeye telescopes

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EU-ESA Workshop on Size Determination of Potentially Hazardous Near-Earth Objects - 13/11/2024

ESA UNCLASSIFIED - For ESA Official Use Only

Strategic objectives

- Space Weather early warning system tailored to European user needs
- Early warnings for asteroids >40 m about three weeks in advance,
- Capability to deflect asteroids smaller than 0.5 km (2 years before)
- Established European players for a growing market of space-traffic technologies and products
- Prepare European industry for a zero-debris policy and a circular economy in space











Flyeye-1 Telescope Overview









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Flyeye-1 under construction - the optics





Flyeye-1 under construction - the optics





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Flyeye-1 under construction - Astronomical Cameras



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Flyeye-1 under construction - Astronomical Cameras





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Flyeye-1 under construction – the mount





Equatorial Mount with dummy during factory tests Nov'2021 Total weight: 19t Max Speed: 7deg/s Max Acc:12deg/s² Point.Accuracy: +/-5" Tracking Accuracy: 0,3"RMS

Flyeye-1 under construction – the site







Monte Mufara, Sicily 1865mts

Flyeye-1 under construction – the Mt Mufara site

Monte Mufar



Nella zona in cui è previsto che l'opera sia collocata non ci sono alberi.

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Flyeye-1 under construction – the observatory



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Flyeye-1 under construction – the observatory







Diameter: 13m Height: 14m Total weight: 56t Max Speed: 11deg/s Mac acceleration: 4deg/s²

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Architecture and Interfaces





Tasking

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Survey Strategy





Gap due to Milky Way brightness being taken into account Repeated observations due to end-of-night strategy Region of sky observed in previous night is given low priority and not observed Complete scan of the observable sky down to V~21.5 every 2-3 nights.

Initial survey strategy:

- 4x observations per target per night
- Revisit time: 20 min
- Cadence: 80 s (60 s exposure time + overheads)

Merit Factors determine:

- Priority of objects (can be set manually)
- Scaling with Moon brightness
- Exclusion of the Milky Way

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Orchestration – ESEC



- Operator Interface
- Monitoring and Control for:
- Telescope
- Dome
- Site Infrastructure
- DPC
- Processing of Scheduling
 Files (SCM) into highlevel commanding
- Alarm and Error logging and debugging

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Data Processing Chain





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DPC hardware rack during factory tests Feb'2024

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Data Processing Chain: Interface



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ASAP Web Interface:

- Access to observation data, with pages for nights, fields, and tracklets, all filtered and navigable via a sidebar
- Detailed information on tracklets and observation fields, with tools for editing, filtering, and submitting confirmed objects to the MPC
- Orbit-based queries in historical images to check for asteroid presence

Data Processing Chain: Validation and Tuning







- Data Processing Chain Validation and tuning is underway.
- Data Retention: all imaging data will be made fully public within a few weeks

Telescope Testing Plan





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Integration activities at Matera





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Flyeye-1 current status



- Telescope
 - Manufacturing completed.
 - Installation at ASI facilities in Matera (temporary site, Italy) ongoing.
- Observatory
 - Design completed.
 - Construction works at Mt. Mufara (Sicily) started.



Equatorial Mount with dummy @ Matera (Sep'2024)



Flyeye-1 High Level Timeline





Telescope - Next weeks / months









Telescope Optics arrived at @ Matera (Nov'2024)

Observatory - Next weeks / months





Escavation Works @ Mt. Mufara (Oct'2024)





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The Industry behind Flyeye-1





From Flyeye-1 to Flyeye-2

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Flyeye 1.0

Flyeye 2.0

16 CHANNELS OVERALL Field of View: 45sq.deg. 1m PRIMARY MIRROR FOCAL LENGHT: 2m CENTRAL OBSCURATION: 0,64m CCD SENSOR RESOLUTION: 16Mpx 8 CHANNELS OVERALL Field of View: 30sq.deg. 1,5m PRIMARY MIRROR FOCAL LENGHT: 2,65m CENTRAL OBSCURATION: 0,52m CCD SENSOR RESOLUTION: 36Mpx



- Enlarged entrance pupil
- Enlarged primary mirror diameter and new off-loading system
- Increased focal length
- Reduced central obscuration
- New optimized relay optics (single channels FoV = 3,75 sq.deg.)
- Updated Equatorial Mount design
- New Secondary Structure
- New beam splitter
- New focusing system
- Adoption of new astronomical camera based on Teledyne CCD sensor

Flyeye-2 current status

Telescope

- Preliminary Design Completed
- Critical Design and Procurement of Longlead items ongoing
- Manufacturing contract to start Q1-2025
- Observatory
 - ITT ongoing, site selection ongoing.
 - Preliminary Design to start Q4-2024
 - Detail Design to start in Q3-2025





Possible sites for Flyeye-2 in Chile and Argentina, under evaluation.

Start of Operations planned for 2029

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- First Flyeye prototype reaching final development stages.
- Challenging implementation.
- Integration at Matera ongoing.
- Flyeye-1 to start early operations in 2026.
- Flyeye-2 development started.
- Teamwork key to success.



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