

Working With Schools to Observe Asteroids, Comets and Other Solar System Bodies Using the Faulkes Telescopes

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Abstract

We present examples of collaborative efforts between professional and amateur astronomers and educational groups and schools throughout Europe. These projects involve the use of the two 2-metre Faulkes Telescopes located in Hawai'i and Australia as well as those of the Las Cumbres Observatory network of 1-metre and 0.4-metre telescopes from multiple sites around the Earth.

One example is that of German student, Levin Belli, from Pascal High School in Muenster, Germany who discovered a new asteroid called 2018AM4 in 2018 using Faulkes Telescope North. This work won him first place in "Earth and Space Sciences" at the regional competition of "Schueler Experimentieren" in the House of Technology in Essen.

Other European students including those from the UK and Germany have recently imaged Comet 46P/Wirtanen using the Faulkes Telescope's real-time observing interface leading to an ESA press release¹.

As well as providing free telescope time to our educational users, we also provide resources based on the background science to these objects, curriculum links and the software required to analyse these objects.

1. http://www.esa.int/spaceinimages/Images/2018/12/Students_analysing_Comet_46P