

# Caltech news bureau

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PHILLIPS NAMED SUBMILLIMETER OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

Thomas G. Phillips, professor of physics at Caltech, has been named director of the Caltech Submillimeter Observatory in Hawaii. The observatory consists of a 10.4-meter (34-foot) radio dish located on 13,800-foot Mauna Kea on Hawaii. It is scheduled to become operational this year.

Dr. Phillips, who received both his undergraduate and doctoral degrees from Oxford, came to Caltech in 1980 from Bell Laboratories. He has served at Caltech as Associate Director of Caltech's Owens Valley Radio Observatory, responsible for the millimeter-wave observatory there.

He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and holds memberships in the American Astronomical Society and the International Astronomical Union. He has served as an adviser to the National Academy of Sciences, NASA, and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory. He makes his home in Pasadena.

A relatively new field, submillimeter-wave astronomy covers one of the few unexplored regions of the electromagnetic spectrum and promises to be a major contributor to the understanding of our galaxy and other galaxies. Submillimeter waves are emitted by dust particles and by many compounds of hydrogen, nitrogen, carbon, and oxygen in space. By studying these particles and molecules, astronomers gain clues as to the conditions in interstellar space and in other galaxies.

Until the Caltech submillimeter-wave telescope, no large radio dish has had either the high surface accuracy needed to focus the waves, or the high-frequency radio detectors to measure them.