
Status report of the SAXO+ opto-mechanical design concept

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Abstract

SAXO+(1, 2) is the second-stage adaptive optics module for the SPHERE(3) instrument at VLT, proposed to boost the current performances of detection and characterization of exoplanets and as a pathfinder for the future planet finder (PCS) of the European ELT. It will work in combination with the SAXO(4) first-stage xAO system measuring and reducing the residual wavefront errors. SAXO+ will be implemented on a mezzanine above the main bench and it will be fed by an exchange mechanism deploying a pick-off mirror in order to preserve all the functionalities of the original instrument. Optical interfaces at the output

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are left unchanged for the scientific instruments downstream. We present in this paper the actual status of the SAXO+ baseline opto-mechanical design and its major challenges.

Keywords: Extreme Adaptive Optics, Optical Design, Mechanical Design, SPHERE, VLT, ELT, instrument upgrades, SAXO+