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Dr. Luc Simard, an  
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have three main team

institutions—not to mention

two continents,” he explains. “It’s already a big

job, and it will get bigger as our new partners—

Japan, China and India—get integrated into the

instrument teams and we get started on actual

construction.”

Another key UVic contributor to the tel-

lescope project is mechanical engineer Dr. Colin

Bradley and his adaptive optics team, which is

developing a solution to one of the main chal-

lenges facing TMT observations—turbulence

from the Earth’s atmosphere.

“The TMT will be a

...of 1.3

“We talk about creating  
ficial stars up in the atmosphere using powerful  
lasers, to developing deformable mirrors that  
can change shape hundred of times a second.”

The telescope isn’t just about the discoveries  
that it will help make, stresses Simard. It’s also  
about taking astronomical instruments to the  
next level.

“TMT represents a change of scale for  
astronomers,” says Simard. “We’re used to

building instruments that are the size of a small