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 telescope project is mechanical engineer Dr. Colin Bradley and his adaptive optics team, which is developing a solution to one of the main challenges facing TMT observations—turbulence from the Earth's atmosphere.

"We talk about
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