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1983: Site testing begins on Mount Graham

1985: March – Spin-casting of 1.8-meter primary mirror in Steward Observatory Mirror Lab; The Vatican Observatory and Steward Observatory agree to build a telescope with the 1.8-meter primary mirror

1986: September – Incorporation of Vatican Observatory Foundation (nonprofit); November – Design of telescope begins

1987: March – First fundraising campaign begins

1988: July – Contract for telescope mount with L?F Industries; November – Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act authorizes construction on Mount Graham

1989: January – Second fundraising campaign begins; February – Design of astrophysics facility begins; May – Contract for secondary mirror with Space Optics Research Labs.

1990: February – Telescope mount delivered to test facility near Tucson; October – Contract with T.L.Roof signed, and site clearing for facility building on Mount Graham begins

1991: June – Weather-delayed start of concrete foundation work on Mount Graham; November – Steward Observatory completes polishing of the primary mirror

1992: April – Construction resumes on Mount Graham; May – Polishing of secondary mirror completed; October – Telescope mount and dome installed on Mount Graham

1993: February – Substantial completion of facility building; March – Installation of scientific equipment; September – First light with primary mirror in place, and beginning of commissioning phase; September 18 – VATT dedication

1994: July – Second light with secondary mirror in place

1995: January – Scientific observations begin

1999: March – Kresge Science Initiative Grant work begins, with substantial completion a year later, bringing VATT close to planned optical and mechanical performance and reliability

2002: December – Installation of [CorMASS](#), a low resolution, near infrared, slit spectrograph

2003: September 18 – Tenth Anniversary! See [Fall 2003 Newsletter](#).

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