

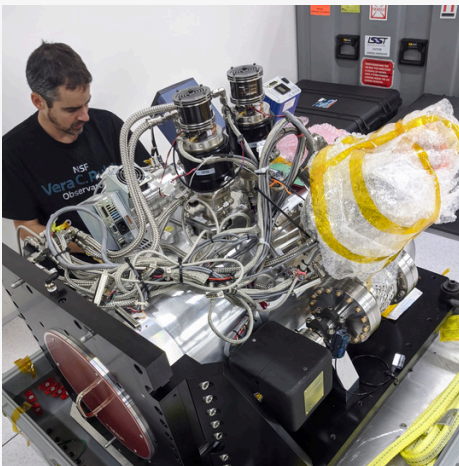


There's no denying that 2020 was a year like no other. The COVID-19 pandemic halted construction activities on the summit from March to September, and prevented most Rubin Observatory staff from traveling to work sites or attending meetings in person for the entire year. But the Rubin team adapted and made great progress despite these challenges. Here are some of the big achievements from that challenging year.



February 2020: First images from the AuxTel Spectrograph

At the end of January, the Rubin Observatory Auxiliary Telescope spectrograph made its first observations of astronomical objects on Cerro Pachón. These “first light” images represented real, usable data for Rubin Observatory, and were the results of years of hard work by many people from the Camera, Data Management, and Telescope & Site subsystems, as well as IT and Systems Engineering.



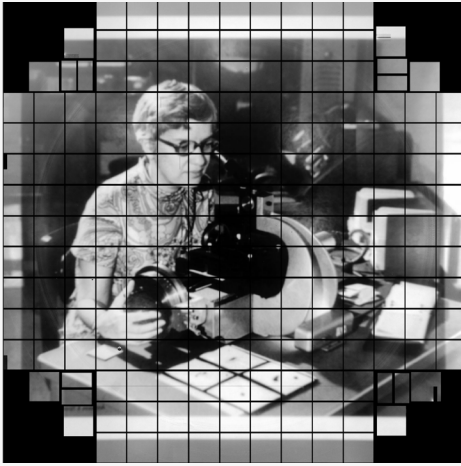
April 2020: Commissioning Camera arrived in Chile

The Rubin Observatory Commissioning Camera (ComCam) shipped from Tucson, AZ, on March 16th and arrived in Chile in early April. Because of the summit construction shutdown (due to safety concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic), the ComCam was unpacked and set up in a temporary instrument lab at the AURA Base Facility in La Serena. In November 2020, after construction resumed on the summit, the ComCam was transported safely to the observatory facility on the summit.



August 2020: Rubin Education and Public Outreach Program kicked off an online user testing campaign

The Rubin Education and Public Outreach (EPO) team planned to conduct an extensive campaign to user-test its classroom investigations and teacher support material in 2020. When it became clear that in-person events wouldn't be possible, the team quickly redesigned the campaign to thrive in an all-virtual environment, resulting in a wealth of valuable feedback that was used to refine and strengthen EPO's formal education products.



September 2020: First Camera focal plane images were taken

The first 3200 megapixel digital photos were taken using the array of imaging sensors that will be integrated into the LSST Camera. These are the largest digital images ever captured in single shots, and they were a successful test of the LSST Camera’s focal plane, which was completed at SLAC in January 2020.

December 2020: Rubin Observatory premieres its new logo and visual identity

Rubin Observatory released its official logo and visual identity guidelines in December 2020, following the organization’s renaming in December 2019. Formerly known as the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope, Rubin Observatory was renamed, by an Act of Congress, to honor American astronomer Vera C. Rubin, a pioneer in the study of dark matter and an advocate for women in science. The logo is a visual representation of Rubin Observatory’s central purpose: to collect light from celestial objects and transform it into data for scientific discovery.



December 2020: Interim Data Facility Partnership with Google was announced

Rubin Observatory finalized a three-year agreement to host its Interim Data Facility (IDF) on Google Cloud. The Rubin IDF will process astronomical data collected by Rubin Observatory in its commissioning phase, and make it available to the Rubin science community in advance of the start of Rubin Observatory’s ten-year Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST). The IDF will allow the Rubin Operations team to become operations-ready and the Rubin science community to be survey-ready when LSST observations begin in 2024.

