

To know more about the...

SOLARSCOPE

Origins project of the "Passeur de Vénus"

The Solarscope project - initially named "Passeur de Vénus" - was initiated by Mr Jean Gay, Astronomer and scientist Director at the Côte d'Azur Observatory (Nice-France).

At the time of the Sun eclipse on August 11, 1999, the interest of the general public for the phenomena related to the Sun has come home to him. Consequently the idea appeared to him to create an instrument of Sun observation.

He also made the connection with the very expected passage of Venus in front of the Sun on June 8, 2004, rare event which occurring every 122 years. If we base on the success obtained by the eclipse in 1999, all signs point to a strong mediatization around this event, equivalent to that involves a total Sun eclipse; it also was important that a Sun observation device is developed to be operational on June 8, 2004.

From there, M. Gay, in collaboration with the astronomers of the Côte d'Azur Observatory, started to work on an instrument concept which allows to follow this event hardly perceptible in naked eye.



For that, this instrument must be:

- useful (easily transportable to follow celestial phenomena in different places of the world)
- simple of use
- cheap
- guarantee a total ocular safety

All these parameters had to be joined together to be able to attract a large audience but also to satisfy the most advised astronomers. From these observations the OCA creates between 2000 and 2001 a first prototype of a Sun observation device called "Passeur de Vénus".

The patent deposition in 2001:

To protect the research and development of the product and any innovation around it, the OCA registered a patent at the INPI in August 2001.