



Dear Amateur Astronomer:

I would like to share with you one of the most exciting new products ever developed by Meade® Instruments. It is called the Deep Sky Imager™ and represents a revolutionary breakthrough in CCD astro-imaging.

Until now, producing high-quality deep sky photographs required purchasing very expensive equipment and software, as well as mastery of focus, exposure, guiding and processing techniques. It has been our goal to develop a high-performance, easy-to-use and affordable color CCD camera that would allow every astronomer to shoot and process stunning deep sky photographs — all for less than **\$300**. Today we reached that goal, and I ask you to take a moment to consider some of the engineering achievements of this innovative new product.

By using proprietary methods (patents pending) Meade's engineers corrected the deficiencies that exist in current CCD digital imagers. For example, consider our extraordinary efforts to increase picture quality by suppressing electronic noise. This is accomplished by turning off the internal power supplies and running the camera on stored energy, while concurrently measuring the intensity of light captured during exposure. To further improve image quality we separated analog and digital circuits into opposite metal chambers with two ground planes. The Deep Sky Imager does not compress the data coming from the sensor, and uses a full 16-bit analog-to-digital converter to enhance picture depth, contrast and dynamic range. Finally, a unique method was devised to reduce image sensor temperature by directing heat generated by circuits away from the CCD sensor. The result: less noise and the ability to take longer exposures.

Meade's new Deep Sky Imager includes our proprietary AutoStar Suite™ software which automatically sorts, aligns and combines the best images, resulting in an extremely low noise, highly detailed color image. With Meade's Deep Sky Imager and AutoStar Suite you will be taking incredible color images of galaxies, nebulae, star clusters and planets your first night out.

It has long been the corporate culture at Meade Instruments to use technical innovation to advance the enjoyment of astronomical observing. This started with compact, affordable, high quality optical systems, followed by electronically controlled telescopes that allow even the inexperienced user to find elusive deep sky objects like a seasoned veteran. Now, Meade's Deep Sky Imager will allow you to photograph deep sky objects that the unaided eye could never perceive, in all their mysterious detail and color.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "SG Murdock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Steven G. Murdock

President and CEO, Meade Instruments