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FROM: Alberto Castro-Tirado at Inst.de Astro. de Andalucia <ajct@iaa.es>

GRB/XRF 020427, detection of an underlying system with the VLT

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communicate:

"We have observed the field of the GRB/XRF 020427 (GCN Circulars 1383, 1384, 1386, 1390, 1394) on 11.388-11.397 June 2002 with the 8.2-m VLT telescope at Paranal ESO's observatory (equipped with FORS2). Imagery was obtained in the B- and R-bands (300-s exposure time each) under rather poor seeing conditions (1".2). The position of the likely X-ray afterglow detected by BSAX and followed-up by Chandra (GCN Circulars 1387, 1392) is coincident with the north part of an extended (about 4" x 2"), blue object with $R = 23.3 \pm 0.2$ and $B = 23.8 \pm 0.4$ which is consistent with the galaxy system reported independently by Fruchter et al. (GCN Circ. 1440). An identification chart is posted at www.iaa.es/~ajct/XRFs/xrf02042