

## Farming and fishing grants

# Primary sector help

▲ **La Gomera island council chief, Casimiro Curbelo**, recently announced plans to aid island primary sector members. The Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca (cabildo department of agriculture, livestock and fishing) has organised funding for, "the promotion and improvement of agricultural and fishing enterprise." Curbelo spoke of the need to, "support and strengthen this sector." He hoped that the grants available would, "help reduce the adverse effects suffered during recent months," and stressed that the grants are available to organisations such as fishermen's cooperatives and water and irrigation cooperatives, as well as individuals working in the sector.

Grants are available for the purchase of machinery, seeds, livestock and feed. Thirty per cent of the cost of buying power-driven ploughs, mini-tractors and other small machines will be paid, as will fifty per cent of the cost of goats and sheep, while cooperatives and groups can ask for up to fifteen thousand



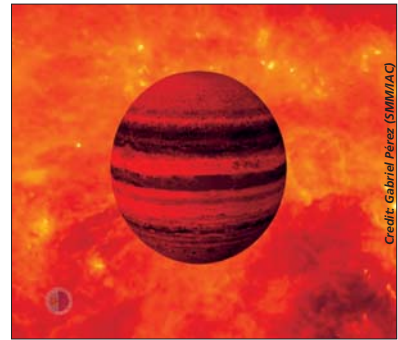
## La Gomera tourists are attracted by the natural world

euro to help with personnel, office equipment and service costs. Registered fishermen can apply for grants of up to fifteen thousand euros to help with the purchase of new boats; three thousand five hundred for engines or motors and two thousand for sonar and related equipment. Half the cost of their monthly social security payments will be paid from grant funds.

Curbelo stressed the importance of supporting primary sector activities, not only in their rôle as means of income, but also as an important complementary aspect of the island's tourism. "We have opted for the type of tourism attracted by the natural world, and interested in the island's traditional values and customs," he said.

## La Palma

## Telescopes detect 'boiling planet'



Credit: Gabriel Pérez (SIMM/IAQ)

The planet is literally burning up

▲ **Scientists using the telescopes** at Las Palma's internationally-famous observatory have discovered a new and very hot planet, details of which have been published in astrophysics publications and the general media in the past few weeks.

The Canarian Astrophysics Institute has confirmed that a mainly British team of researchers led by Belfast's Don Pollaco made the discovery of what has been described as a third Jupiter-sized planet orbiting a sun

over 700 light years away in a remote corner of the galaxy. The planet, which has been dubbed Wasp-3b, was found thanks to details of which have been published in astrophysics publications and the general media in the past few weeks.

The scientists say that the planets of the Wasp group are so close to their suns that they are literally burning up due to the heat, which makes any form of life impossible.

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