

As well as being a leader in astronomical research, ESO is also at the forefront of developing the technology and instruments needed for future research programmes. ESO is currently planning for the next generation of large telescopes, with the 39-metre European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT), which will be the largest optical/near-infrared telescope in the world.

Approximately 700 people work in the offices in Chile and at the Headquarters in Garching, near Munich (Germany). ESO is supported by 15 Member States: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Brazil is in the process of ratifying its membership in the Brazilian parliament.



The Very Large Telescope array at the Paranal Observatory.
Credit: ESO/H. H. Heyer



The ALMA antenna array seen from the air.
Credit: Clem & Adri Bacri-Normier (wingsforscience.com)/ESO

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