

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 building the 39-metre European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT), which will be the largest optical/near-infrared telescope in the world.

Approximately 650 people work at the sites in Chile and at the ESO Headquarters in Garching, near Munich (Germany). ESO is supported by 16 countries: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, along with the host state of Chile.



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



www.eso.org