

The ESO Programme and its role in European astronomy

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The European Southern Observatory (ESO) is conducting an ambitious programme of building and operating world-class astronomical observatories in the ground and fostering cooperation in astronomy. In this presentation I will provide an update on recent progress in the various ESO programmes, including the La Silla Paranal observatory and its instrumentation programme, the ALMA observatory that ESO owns and operates in partnership with North-American and East-Asian institutions, and ESO's Extremely Large Telescope whose construction activities are firmly ramping up. I will also underline the important role of ESO in the European astronomical landscape, where a wealth of activities are conducted together with the community to foster cooperation and exchange in astronomy.