

# Opening Remarks



50 YEARS REACHING NEW HEIGHTS IN ASTRONOMY



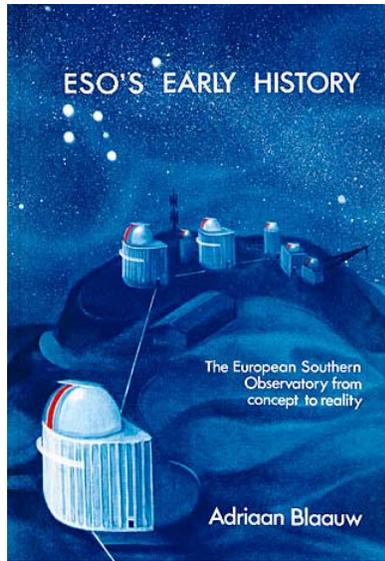
## A Special Year for ESO

- 1962
  - ESO created by five Member States with the goal to build a large telescope in the southern hemisphere
  - This became the 3.6m telescope on La Silla (1976)
- 2012
  - 15 Member States (~30% of the world's astronomers)
  - Paranal is the world-leading ground-based observatory
  - ALMA (in partnership) on Chajnantor has started observations and construction will be completed in 2013
  - Construction of 39m E-ELT on Armazones to start soon

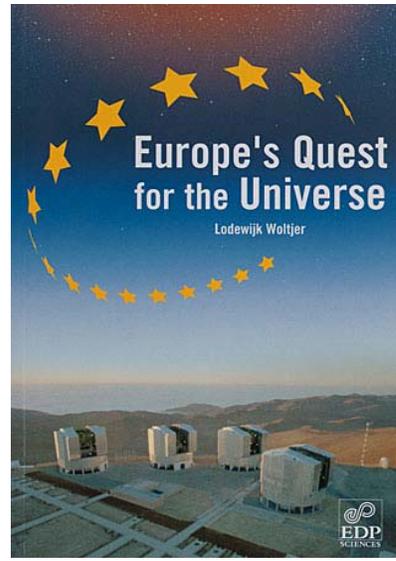




# ESO's Early History



The First 50 Years of ESO, 3 Sep 2012

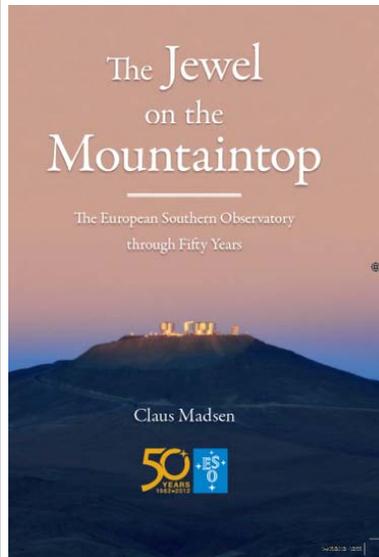


# Paranal and Chajnantor

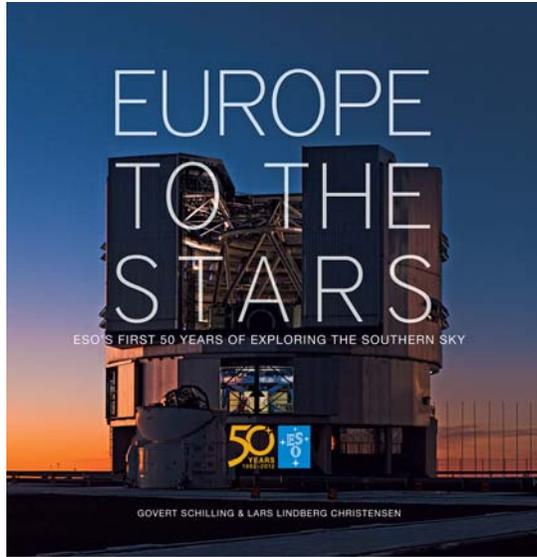




## The First 50 Years



The First 50 Years of ESO, 3 Sep 2012



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## This Conference

- Scientific highlights provided by ESO telescopes
  - Covering nearly all areas of astrophysics
  - Including ongoing work
- Historical perspective
  - Telescopes and instrumentation
  - Impact on astronomy
- Forward look
  - Scientific and technical opportunities
  - Further development of ESO's programme

The First 50 Years of ESO, 3 Sep 2012

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