

ESO, the European Southern Observatory, was created in 1962 to "... establish and operate an astronomical observatory in the southern hemisphere, equipped with powerful instruments, with the aim of furthering and organising collaboration in astronomy..." It is supported by ten countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. ESO operates at three sites in the Atacama desert region of Chile. The Very Large Telescope (VLT), is located on Paranal, a 2,600 m high mountain approximately 130 km south of Antofagasta. The VLT consists of four 8.2 metre diameter telescopes. These telescopes can be used separately, or in combination as a giant interferometer (VLTI). At La Silla, 600 km north of Santiago de Chile at 2,400 m altitude, ESO operates several optical telescopes with diameters up to 3.6 m. The third site is the 5,000 m high Llano de Chajnantor, near San Pedro de Atacama. Here a new submillimetre telescope (APEX) is being completed, and a large submillimetre-wave array of 64 antennas (ALMA) is under development. Over 1300 proposals are made each year for the use of the ESO telescopes. The ESO headquarters are located in Garching, near Munich, Germany. This is the scientific, technical and administrative centre of ESO where technical development programmes are carried out to provide the Paranal and La Silla observatories with the most advanced instruments. ESO employs about 320 international staff members, Fellows and Associates in Europe and Chile, and about 160 local staff members in Chile.

The ESO MESSENGER is published four times a year: normally in March, June, September and December. ESO also publishes Conference Proceedings, Preprints, Technical Notes and other material connected to its activities. Press Releases inform the media about particular events. For further information, contact the ESO Education and Public Relations Department at the following address:

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ESO Workshop Proceedings Still Available

Many ESO Conference and Workshop Proceedings are still available and may be ordered at the European Southern Observatory. Some of the more recent ones are listed below.

No.	Title	Price
54	Topical Meeting on "Adaptive Optics", October 2-6, 1995, Garching, Germany. M. Cullum (ed.)	€ 40.-
55	NICMOS and the VLT. A New Era of High Resolution Near Infrared Imaging and Spectroscopy. Pula, Sardinia, Italy, May 26-27, 1998	€ 10.-
56	ESO/OSA Topical Meeting on "Astronomy with Adaptive Optics - Present Results and Future Programs". Sonthofen, Germany, September 7-11, 1999. D. Bonaccini (ed.)	€ 50.-
57	Bäckaskog Workshop on "Extremely Large Telescopes". Bäckaskog, Sweden, June 1-2, 1999. T. Andersen, A. Ardeberg, R. Gilmozzi (eds.)	€ 30.-
58	Beyond Conventional Adaptive Optics, Venice, Italy, May 7-10, 2001. E. Vernet, R. Ragazzoni, S. Esposito, N. Hubin (eds.)	€ 50.-

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