



Izaskun Jiménez-Serra

very cold temperatures (and by “very cold” I mean 10 degrees above absolute zero!), which appears in very young solar-

type systems. This has become one of my main interests in recent years.

As the next step, I was awarded a Submillimeter Array (SMA) Fellowship to work with the SMA team at the Harvard–Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA). This position meant I could achieve professional maturity as a researcher. Those were very intense (but exciting!) years where I had the opportunity to operate the SMA, a pioneering instrument for ALMA. This was the first time I was in direct contact with the operational work at a telescope. I had to travel often to Hawaii which was great fun. I will always be very grateful to the SMA and its team who taught me so much!

In early 2013, I came back to Europe, thanks to a Marie Curie Fellowship hosted by ESO (thank you FP7!). This year and a half at ESO has been really exciting. I not only have participated in some of the functional work of the ALMA

Regional Centre at ESO, but I have helped in designing science cases for the future development of this extraordinary facility. The atmosphere at ESO is stimulating: there are always many visitors, meetings and conferences around, and its location on the Garching campus allows interactions with researchers from other institutes. At ESO, I have recently started a project to try to detect the building blocks of life, amino acids, in very young solar systems. It may sound like science fiction to many but the truth is that, thanks to ALMA, we are getting close to reach the limits where these complex organics may be detectable!

As for the future, in six months I will be taking a tenure-track fellowship (an Ernest Rutherford Fellowship) at University College London in the UK. This is really exciting since this will allow me to build up my own group and to continue exploring the pre-biotic chemical complexity in young solar systems.

Announcement of the ESO Workshop

ESO in the 2020s

19–23 January 2015, ESO Headquarters, Garching, Germany

This workshop will provide a forum for discussion of the likely astronomical landscape in the 2020s — both core science and burning topics, in so far as these can ever be predicted. Flowing from that, the community is invited to advise the ESO Executive with regard to future facilities, including, but not limited to, those at the optical/infrared observatories at La Silla and Paranal in Chile, at the submillimetre observatories APEX and ALMA on Chajnantor and the European Extremely Large Telescope to be constructed on Armazones.

In addition to high-level summaries there will be ample time for discussion and the presentation of new ideas to shape the future of ESO.



For more information please visit the workshop webpage at:
<http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2015/eso-2020.html>
or contact eso2020@eso.org