

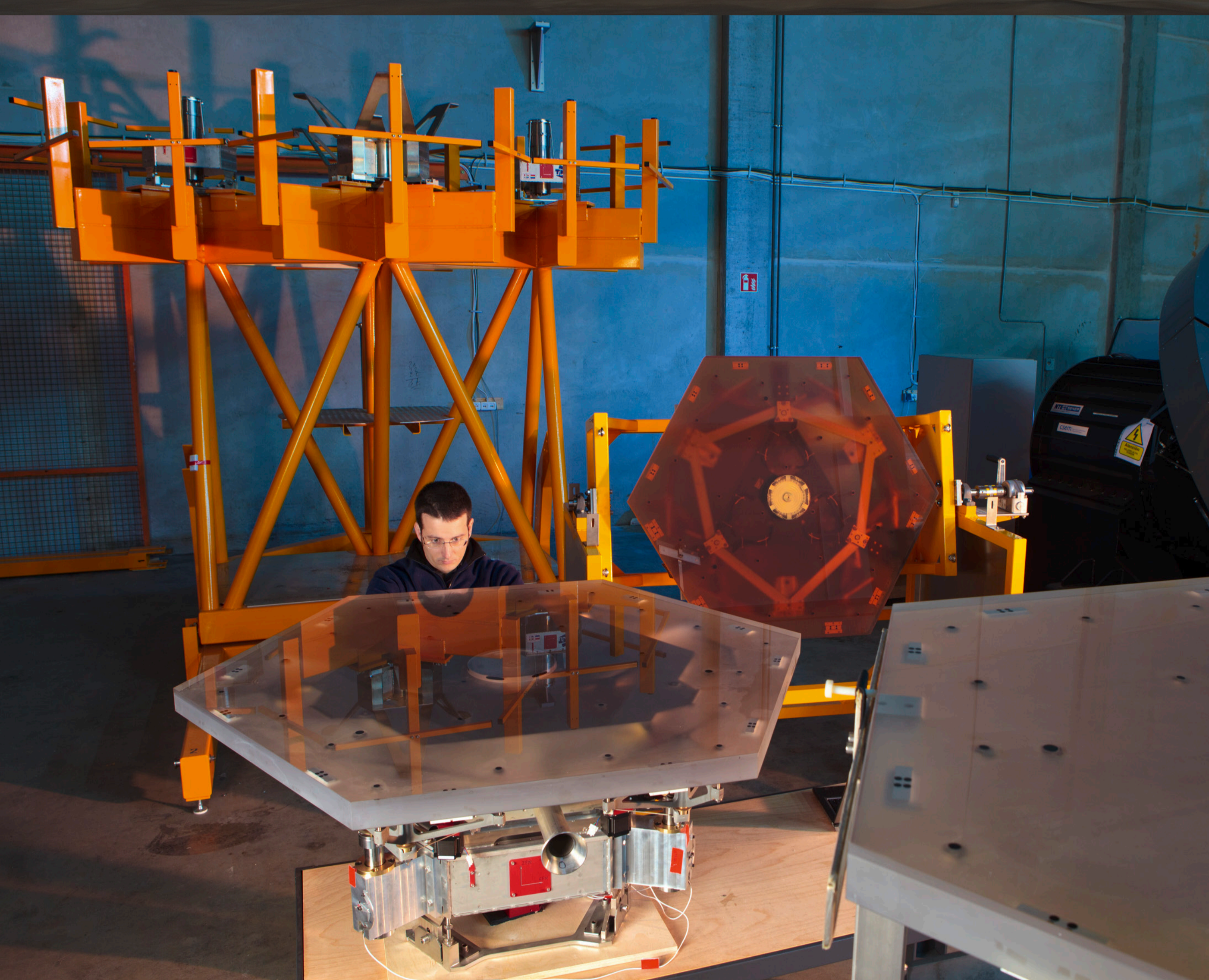


The European Extremely Large Telescope — The World's Biggest Eye on the Sky

The European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT) will be the largest optical/near-infrared telescope in the world. The revolutionary 39-metre telescope will have an innovative five-mirror design and will capture about 15 times more light than any current telescope.

ESO selected Cerro Armazones (at an altitude of 3060 metres above sea level) as the site for the E-ELT. It lies about 20 kilometres from Cerro Paranal, home of ESO's Very Large Telescope (VLT). This location excels in all aspects of astronomical sky quality and the site is currently being prepared for construction to start. The telescope will be operated as an integral part of the Paranal Observatory.

The E-ELT will have the latest in adaptive optics systems to correct for atmospheric turbulence, providing images 15 times sharper than those from the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope. Astronomers using the E-ELT will tackle some of the biggest scientific challenges of our time, including the study of exoplanets and protoplanetary discs, galaxy formation, dark matter and dark energy. It may, eventually, revolutionise our perception of the Universe as much as Galileo's telescope did more than 400 years ago.



Experimental segments of the giant primary mirror of the E-ELT undergoing testing.



E-ELT and VLT sizes compared with the Colosseum.

