



# European Southern Observatory – Reaching New Heights in Astronomy

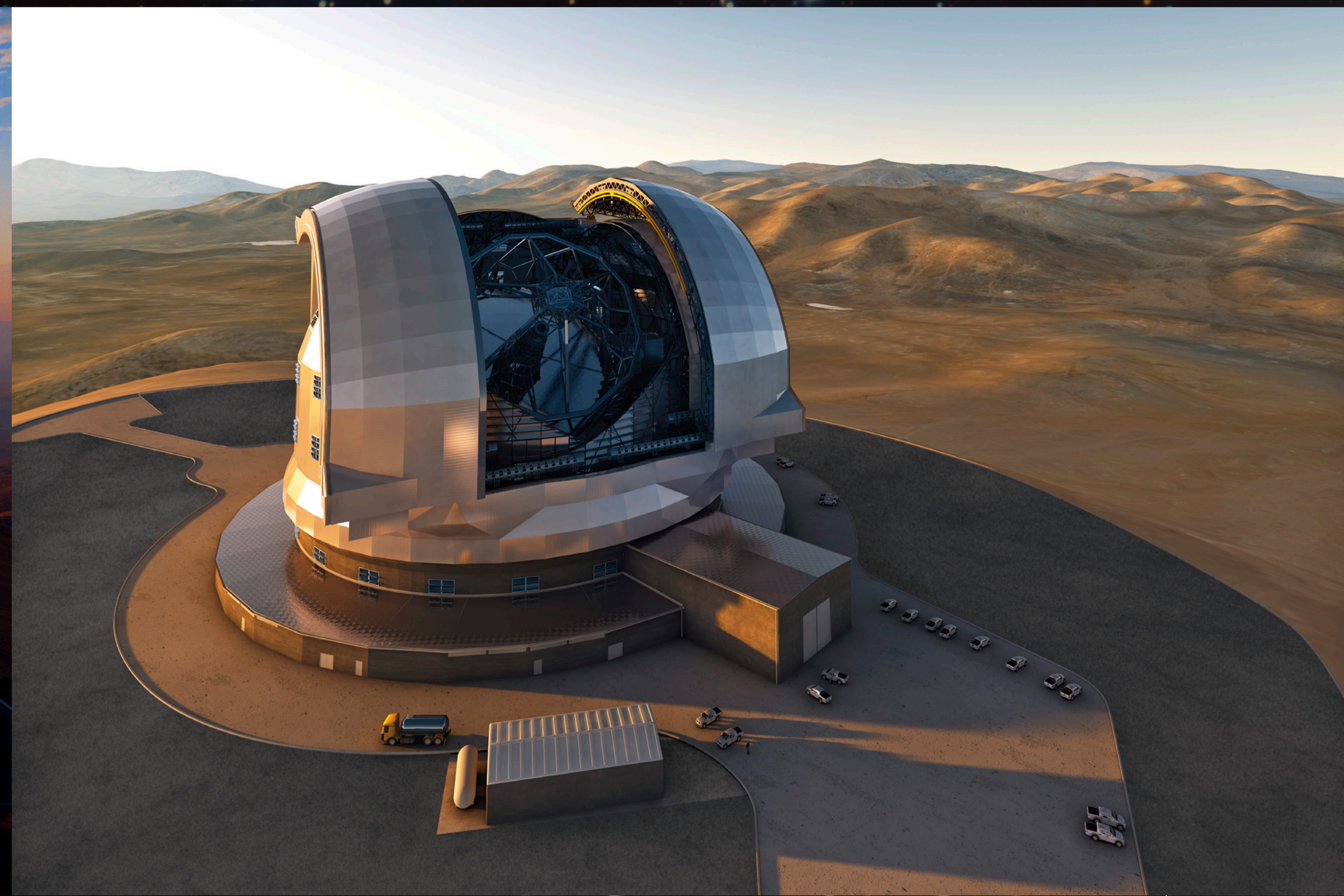
Created in 1962, the European Southern Observatory (ESO) is the foremost intergovernmental organisation in the field of ground-based astronomy and is the most productive ground-based observatory in the world by far. ESO operates three unique world-class observing sites in La Silla, Paranal and Chajnantor in northern Chile, giving astronomers access to some of the clearest skies in the southern hemisphere.

As well as being a leader in astronomical research, ESO is also at the forefront of developing the technology and instruments needed for future research programmes. ESO is currently building the 39-metre European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT), which will be the largest optical/near-infrared telescope in the world.

ESO is supported by 16 countries: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, along with the host state of Chile.



La Silla Observatory.



Artist's impression of the European Extremely Large Telescope.

