

European Southern Observatory

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Head of Instrumentation

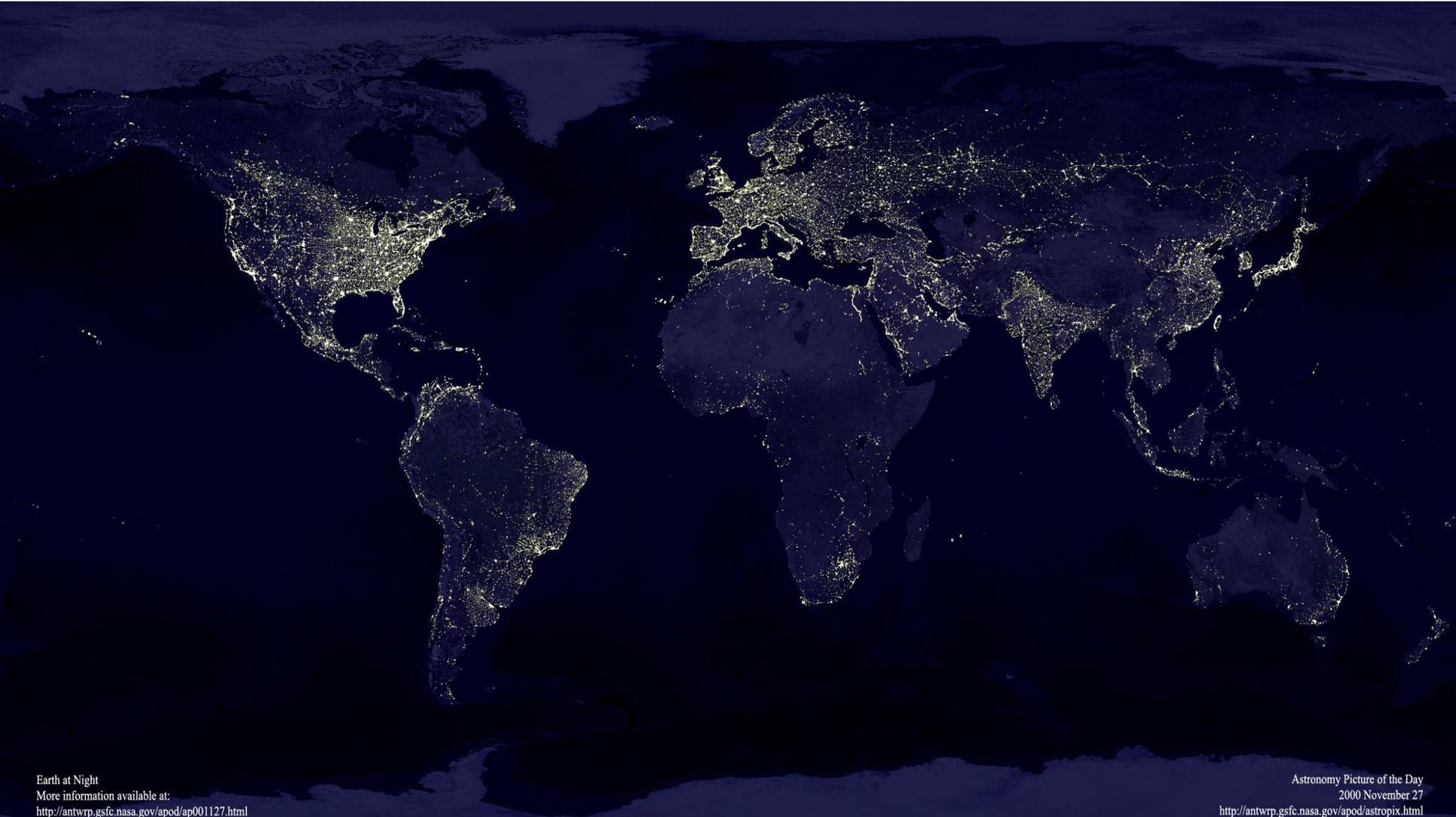
ESO: the European Southern Observatory

- **ESO** is the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere
- It was created in 1962
- Its member states are Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and recently Brazil.
- ESO's headquarters are in Germany, in Garching near Munich
- ESO currently operates observatories at three sites in Chile
- European leadership in g-b astronomy (excl. Solar astronomy, Cerenkov...)



Three Directorates
with about 800 staff

Sites for Telescopes need to be dry and dark...



ESO's observatory sites in Chile

- [Paranal](#) (2600 m)
- [La Silla](#) (2400 m)
- [Chajnantor](#) (5000 m)



Paranal and the ESO Very Large Telescope



Atacama desert – driest place on earth

- Observatory is a self-contained world



The Residencia





This is Cerro Chajnantor, at 5000 m altitude in the Atacama Desert

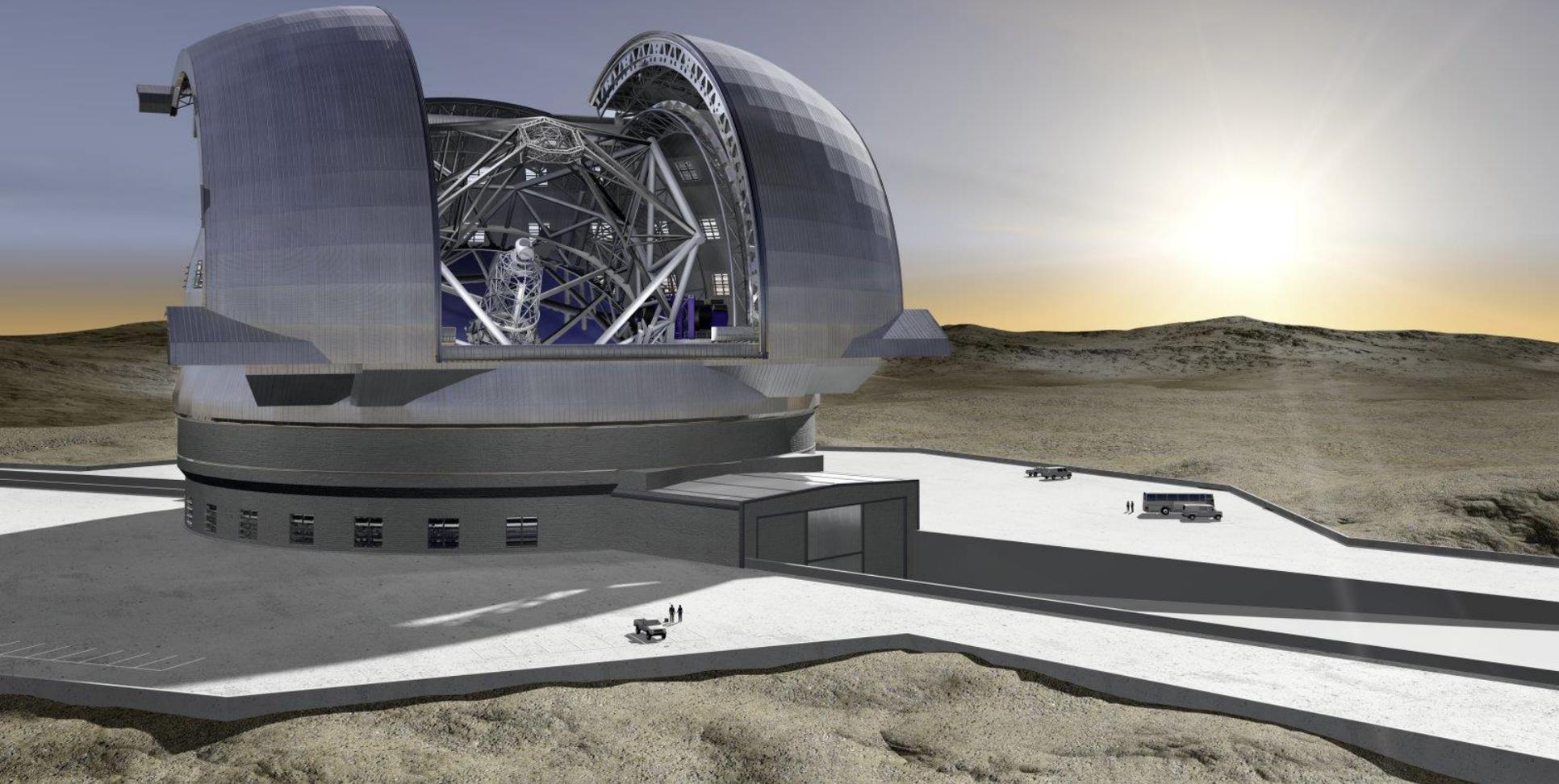




Lascar – April + October 2006



European Extremely Large Telescope



Bigger is better

