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Europäische Organisation
für astronomische
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südlichen Hemisphäre

E-ELT PROGRAMME

PROJECT SCIENCE TEAM - TERMS OF REFERENCE

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Abbreviations

See applicable document AD1 (see section 2.1 herein for references of applicable documents).

1 Scope

The document defines the terms of reference of the Project Science Team foreseen to support the project during the E-ELT construction phase, including the commissioning of the telescope and first light instruments. This advisory working group will replace the Science Working Group (SWG) whose mandate ends with the end of phase B.

2 Related documents

2.1 Applicable documents

The following applicable documents form a part of the present document to the extent specified herein. In the event of conflict between applicable documents and the content of the present document, the content of the present document shall be taken as superseding.

- AD1 Common definitions and acronyms; E-ESO-SPE-313-0066 Issue 4
- AD2 Rules for Dealing with Conflicts of Interest on ESO Committees; Attachment 7 to ESO/Cou-1040

2.2 Reference documents

The following Reference Documents provide background information as to the present document. Under no circumstance shall the content of Reference Documents be construed as applicable to the present one, in part or in full.

None.

3 Terms of Reference for the Project Science Team

3.1 Introduction

The European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT) Project Science Team will work in collaboration with ESO, the E-ELT programme and the astronomical community to provide coherent scientific leadership during the construction phase and the commissioning of the E-ELT.

During these phases the Project Science Team will be a liaison to the astronomical community and will assist ESO in the dissemination of the information about the E-ELT.

The Project Science Team will report to the ESO E-ELT Programme Scientist, and will advise the E-ELT Project Manager.

3.2 Membership

Project Science Team members will be appointed by the E-ELT Programme Scientist based on their scientific expertise and experience in observational and theoretical astrophysics relevant to defining and focusing on scientific objectives of the E-ELT.

The membership of the Project Science Team will be composed of the following:

- Approximately twelve scientists, solicited in the ESO community by an announcement of opportunity, appointed by the Programme Scientist for renewable terms of 3 years. These scientists may be experts on particular technical matters or on particular research topics;
- The Principal Investigators of Council approved E-ELT instrument projects;
- Ex officio members: the E-ELT Project Scientist, the E-ELT Instrument Scientist, the E-ELT System Scientist.

The E-ELT Programme Scientist will appoint the chair of the Project Science Team among its members, for a renewable term of two years.

ESO may decide to expand the Project Science Team membership as the project evolves.

3.3 Responsibilities

Specific tasks of the Project Science Team include responding to specific requests from the Programme Scientist and providing input and advice to ESO and the E-ELT programme to help:

- Refine, as necessary, the E-ELT science goals;
- Refine, as necessary, the Observatory Top Level Requirements, including refining the science requirements and performance metrics and objectives for the telescope, the instrumentation, the operations and other scientific aspects of the project;
- Develop the instrumentation plan for the E-ELT and set the scientific priorities for the instrument procurement, and
- Develop a science perspective on any major cost/schedule/science trades brought forward by the project.

In addition the Project Science Team is expected to:

- Participate in the E-ELT reviews in order to coordinate scientific requirements and assist the E-ELT project in decisions as they relate to scientific objectives and scientific performance of the programme;
- Participate in the refinement of the project science plans and the philosophy for defining and conducting the science programme, and
- Disseminate actively the information and explain the goals of the E-ELT to the ESO community.

The Project Science team is expected to meet at least twice per year in face-to-face meetings.

3.4 Resources

ESO will provide logistical support for the Project Science Team, including arranging meetings, compiling agendas, and issuing minutes. ESO will further pay for travel of Project Science Team members to E-ELT meetings and working visits to ESO.
