



ESO

European Organisation
for Astronomical
Research in the
Southern Hemisphere



E-ELT Project Manager and Head of the E-ELT Division

The European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO) is the foremost intergovernmental astronomy organisation in Europe and the world's most productive astronomical observatory. ESO operates three unique world-class observing sites in the Atacama Desert region of Chile: La Silla, Paranal and Chajnantor. The ESO headquarters are located in Garching, near Munich, Germany. ESO is the focal point for Europe's participation in the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) consortium, which is currently constructing a large submillimetre array in the Chilean Andes.

The concept and design of the European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT) is currently underway at ESO. This revolutionary new ground-based telescope concept will have a 40-metre-class main mirror and will be the largest optical/near-infrared telescope in the world: "the world's biggest eye on the sky". The start of E-ELT construction is planned for 2012, with the start of operations planned for early in the next decade.

For its E-ELT Division at the Headquarters in Garching near Munich, Germany, ESO is opening the position of:

E-ELT Project Manager and Head of the E-ELT Division

The E-ELT Project Manager is responsible for the successful completion to specification of the E-ELT construction and within the approved budget and schedule. As Head of the Division the successful candidate directs all ESO activities in it and reports to the Director of Programmes and to the ESO Director General. As a member of the ESO enlarged management team the Head of Division contributes directly to the development of the overall policy, strategic planning and maintains professional contacts at the highest level outside the Organisation. The Division consists of about 15 engineers and scientists who work in groups or teams, plus additional people drawn from the Directorate of Engineering and Directorate for Science.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Delivering the E-ELT within time, cost and specification;
- Leads and manages the team based in Garching/Germany and in Chile;
- Releases all technical and managerial documentation generated within the project;
- Is the sole authority for approving change requests and requests for waiver, irrespective of their origin or urgency;
- Reports on a regular basis on progress, cost and schedule variations and risks to internal and external Committees;
- Supported by, and in consultation with ESO Administration and Human Resources, submits the annual forecast and manpower request to the Director of Programmes;
- Is the interface with the Directorates of Engineering, Operations and Science ensuring that the necessary resources to execute the project are available.

Experience:

- At least ten years of experience in constructing or operating scientific/high technology projects; experiences with such projects in astronomy or closely related fields would be an advantage;
- An established record of successful management and leadership in a large multi-disciplinary technology based project;
- Hands-on experience in the use of standard project management systems and tools.

Expertise in the following is essential:

- Strong leadership and organisational capabilities;
- Excellent motivational and communication skills;
- In-depth understanding of the budget and schedule controls needed for the timely, cost-effective completion;
- In placing and managing large contracts;
- In risk analysis, systems engineering procedures and in QA systems.

Key Competences:

- Translates complex aims into clear and manageable plans, identifying the resources required and timescales, contingencies and counter measures;
- Proactively identifies critical issues and ensures their timely resolution. Makes informed decisions that take into account the facts, goals, constraints, and risks;
- Balances conflicting demands and responds quickly to changes in priorities in-line with agreed overall objectives;
- Builds and manages collaborative working relationships within the organisation and with other teams and external partners;
- Ability to negotiate, influence and communicate in a clear and concise manner both in writing and verbally.

Qualifications:

The position requires a university degree in engineering, astrophysics or another of the physical sciences.

Language Skills:

The position requires very good working knowledge of English. Additional knowledge of other European languages would be an advantage.

Remuneration and Contract:

We offer an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary (tax free), comprehensive pension scheme and medical, educational and other social benefits, as well as financial help in relocating your family and the possibility to place your child/children in daycare.

The initial contract is for a period of three years with the possibility of a fixed-term or indefinite extension based on technical and managerial achievements. The title or grade may be subject to change according to qualification and the number of years of experience.

Duty Station:

Garching near Munich, with frequent travel to Chile.

Career Path: VII

Application:

If you are interested in working in areas of frontline technology and in a stimulating international environment, please visit (<http://www.eso.org>) for further details.

Applicants are invited to apply online at <https://jobs.eso.org/>. Applications must be completed in English and should include a motivation letter and CV.

Closing date for applications is 8 January 2012.

For additional information, please contact the Director of Programmes, Dr. Adrian Russell at arussell@eso.org.

Although recruitment preference will be given to nationals of ESO Member States (members are: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom) no nationality is in principle excluded.

The post is equally open to suitably qualified female and male applicants.

