

A special lunchtime talk by Massimo Tarengi provided an interesting historical and personal overview of the development of the La Silla and Paranal observatories. The programme also included career-training workshops led by the Heads of the Offices for Science on the topics of “Fine-tuning Your Job Applications” and “How to Give a Good Job Interview”, with the goal of enhancing the marketability of ESO Fellows and students. A lunch and tour at one of Chile’s many wonderful wineries provided a nice opportunity for Fellows to get to know each other better and to gain a deeper appreciation of Chilean culture (see Figure 1).

A highlight of the Fellows Days was a visit to the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) on Chajnantor (Figure 2), including an overnight stay in San Pedro de Atacama. Everyone was excited to see ALMA operations in action at the Operations Support Facility (OSF) and the ALMA Operations Site (AOS), and ESO ALMA COFUND Fellow Anaëlle Maury gave a very informative tour of the ALMA facilities. During the visit the Fellows had an opportunity to discover the unusual local ice and snow formations (see the Figure on the Astronomical News section page, p. 37).



Figure 2. More than 30 ESO Fellows and students visited the ALMA site on Chajnantor, accompanied by the Heads of the Offices for Science in Garching and Chile.

Many thanks are due to all the ALMA staff who made this visit possible, and especially to Paulina Jiron of ESO for all her hard work organising the travel and accommodation. We were greatly impressed by the efficiency and professionalism of everyone at ALMA. It’s not easy to handle visits by a group of this size to an altitude of 5000 metres, but ALMA managed it perfectly. ALMA hats to block the fierce sun quickly became

prized souvenirs for the Fellows and students as a nice reminder of their exciting visit!

The next ESO Fellows Days will take place in Garching during 2013.

Call for Nominations for the European Extremely Large Telescope Project Science Team

The European Southern Observatory invites the astronomical community to nominate candidates for the European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT) Project Science Team.

The E-ELT Project Science Team is an advisory working group that will support the E-ELT programme during the construction phase. The E-ELT Project Science Team is not an ESO oversight committee.

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 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;
- 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 the scientific performance of the programme;

- Participate in the refinement of the project science plans and the philosophy for defining and conducting the science programme;
- Disseminate this information actively and explain the goals of the E-ELT to the ESO community.

ESO is seeking a representative group of scientists, covering scientific as well as

technical expertise. Candidates should be ready to dedicate more than 10% of their time to the project during the three-year appointment. Funding is available for extended visits (several distributed or continuous weeks) to the ESO Headquarters in the frame of this work.

The closing date for sending nominations is 31 March 2012. The E-ELT programme will start by contacting candidates thereafter, with the goals of completing a team of a dozen multi-disciplinary scientists by 30 April 2012.

Nominations should be justified by a maximum of one page of text, summarising the relevant expertise (and plans) of the candidate for the E-ELT project, and should be submitted electronically to Samantha Milligan (smilliga@eso.org) before 31 March 2012. Both self-nominations as well as nominations by supporters (individuals or groups) are welcome.

The terms of reference for the Project Science Team can be found at <http://www.eso.org/sci/facilities/eelt/science/pst>

ESO Celebrates its 50th Anniversary

The year 2012 marks 50 years since the ESO Convention was signed by representatives from five European countries — Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden on 5 October 1962. The anniversary year is an opportunity to look back at ESO's history, celebrate its scientific and technological achievements and look forward to the future.

A number of events and public initiatives are planned for 2012, as announced on the 50th anniversary web page¹, including:

- A scientific symposium (see announcement on p. 47);
- Coordinated public events in the 15 Member States on the day of the anniversary, 5 October 2012;
- A gala anniversary event to take place in Munich on 11 October 2012;
- An anniversary exhibition on display at selected locations in the ESO Member States;
- A documentary film released on the anniversary day, together with an illustrated book;
- The first Picture of the Week² of every month in 2012 will be a special Then and Now feature, presenting ESO sites as they looked in the past and as they look today;



- Release of the second part of the official history of ESO, written by Claus Madsen, to follow the book by Adriaan Blaauw, *ESO's Early History* (1991). An illustrated timeline of the five decades of ESO is also available³.

Links

¹ ESO's 50th anniversary web page: <http://www.eso.org/public/outreach/50years.html>

² Picture of the Week: <http://www.eso.org/public/images/potw/>

³ ESO Timeline: <http://www.eso.org/public/about-eso/timeline.html>