

ESO Open House Day 2009

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On 24 October 2009 ESO opened its doors to the public as part of the annual campus-wide Open House event ("Tag der offenen Tür"). This year's Open House event was a resounding success, with a record-breaking attendance of around 4000 visitors. Dedicated ESO staff volunteered to spend part of their Saturday in the noble cause of improving ESO's connection with the taxpayer.

The many visitors barely had enough space to move from one exciting exhibit to the next and the talks in the auditorium were standing room only. An all-day live link to Paranal with a new webcam was very well received, and so was the portable planetarium, with the latest in high-tech digital full-dome projection showing ESO's ALMA planetarium show *In Search of our Cosmic Origins*. In the cafeteria samples of international cuisine were sold for the benefit of the ESO Charity Group and will find their way to charity projects in Chile.

Many families went home with infrared portraits and happy children with painted faces were roaming through the build-



Nadine Neumeyer, an ESO Fellow, giving a talk to a packed auditorium about "Black holes in galaxy centres" during the ESO Open House event.

ing. The lively conversations throughout the building also showed the interest of the visitors in astronomy, ESO and its technological achievements.

Similar events took place all over the Garching campus, where approximately 4000 people work and 8500 students study. The high concentration of scientific and technical research establishments found here gave the thousands of visitors from near and far a first-hand introduction to the Technical University Munich, several institutes of the Max Planck Society,

the Ludwig Maximilian University Munich, the Bavarian Academy of Sciences, as well as many other renowned institutes and enterprises. The Garching campus is one of the largest centres for science, research and learning in Germany, with a sphere of activity reaching from fundamental research to development of promising high-tech applications. It continues to grow in size and diversity with new institutes and enterprises under construction, promising even bigger and more exciting Open House events in the future.

ESO Website is Now Available in Twelve Languages

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ESO is pleased to announce that important parts of its extensive website have been translated into eleven European languages, covering all ESO member states as well as some additional countries. Many more readers will now be able to learn all about ESO's impressive telescopes and projects in their own languages. These include the Very Large Telescope, as well as the Atacama Large Milli-

meter/submillimeter Array and the planned European Extremely Large Telescope. ESO press releases will also now be available in these languages, in addition to descriptions of ESO-related events taking place in the ESO member states.

This new service is courtesy of the ESO Science Outreach Network (ESON), a network of individuals in several countries — including all the ESO member states — who serve as local contacts for the media and the general public in connection with ESO developments, press releases, exhibitions and more. The ESON members also serve as useful contacts

between the media and scientists in their respective regions, and as such are valuable ambassadors in the member states.

The new, dedicated websites are available for readers from Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as for Chile. In addition, there are also ESON contacts in Ireland, the United Kingdom and the USA.

The ESON page with links to the mini-sites is at www.eso.org/public/outreach/eson/.