

## Deep Space LIVE

Europe's World-Record Eye on the Sky: The European Extremely Large Telescope

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(Linz, June 18, 2010) The decision has been finalized: Europe's super-telescope will be built. The upshot will be an astronomical observatory of superlative dimensions. Featuring almost 1,000 individual mirrors and an active opening 42 meters wide, its light collection surface will be as large as six tennis courts. This gigantic main mirror will be mounted in a dome resembling that of a sports arena. The European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT) will cost a billion euros and overshadow anything that humankind has ever used to gaze at the stars. Even the Hubble Space Telescope is no match—the E-ELT will have 25 times higher resolution and 5,000 times more luminous intensity. According to a European Southern Observatory (ESO) spokesperson: "This telescope could revolutionize our view of the universe, just like Galileo's spyglass did about 400 years ago." The E-ELT, set for completion in 2018, will be built at an altitude of 3,060 meters above sea level in Chile's Atacama Desert, where 320 cloudless nights per year and the government's commitment to minimizing light pollution in the region were decisive in convincing the ESO to opt for a Chilean location.

## Deep Space LIVE with Dietmar Hager

Dietmar Hager and the Ars Electronica Center cordially invite the public to attend a Deep Space LIVE event on June 24, 2010 that will focus on Europe's record-breaking eye on the sky. "In 1609, Galileo peered through a spyglass that was a mere 37 millimeters in diameter and saw further into space than anyone before him. In 2018, a human being will look through a telescope with a 42-meter diameter and, once again, witness things that no one has ever seen before," said Dietmar Hager, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. He has been pursuing astrophotography for more than 20 years, and has published his images in international journals as well as educational books and videos. Dietmar Hager is also a specialist in microsurgery at Linz General Hospital.

## Deep Space LIVE

The Ars Electronica Center is now hosting a Deep Space LIVE event every Thursday (except holidays) at 8 PM. Each presentation will feature ultra-high-definition imagery in 16x9-meter format and will be accompanied by expert commentary, entertaining stand-up repartee, and musical improvisation. Whether great works from the history of art, space travel, journeys of discovery in the Nanoworld, or a live concert is what you've come to behold, Deep Space LIVE stands for enlightening entertainment amidst breathtaking worlds of imagery. Admission (including an accompanying person) is €2. Holders of a valid Museum ticket are admitted free of charge.

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European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere: <http://www.eso.org/public/>

The European Extremely Large Telescope: <http://www.eso.org/public/teles-instr/e-elt/index.html>

NASA Images (Internet Archive): <http://www.nasaimages.org/>

Stargazer Observatory / Dietmar Hager: <http://www.stargazer-observatory.com/>

Ars Electronica Center: [www.aec.at](http://www.aec.at)