

E-ELT construction work to start

11 December 2013



road, the construction of the summit platform and the construction of a service trench to the summit. These civil works will allow the required access to the summit for the future construction work on the [giant telescope](#).

The start of telescope operations is planned for early in the next decade, when the E-ELT will begin to tackle the biggest astronomical challenges of our time. It will be the largest optical/near-infrared telescope in the world: "the world's biggest eye on the sky".

Provided by ESO

At a ceremony at ESO's Vitacura offices in Santiago on 9 Dec. 2013 the ESO Director General, Tim de Zeeuw, and a senior representative of the Chilean company ICAFAL Ingeniería y Construcción S.A., signed a contract for the construction of a road to the summit of Cerro Armazones, the levelling of the top of the mountain and additional civil works. Credit: ESO/ G. Lombardi

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Cerro Armazones will be the site of the 39-metre European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT). The 3000-metre peak is located twenty kilometres from ESO's Paranal Observatory, in the Atacama Desert of northern Chile.

The work specified in the contract will begin in March 2014 and is expected to take 16 months. It includes the laying and maintenance of a paved

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