

# The CTA Project – Upcoming Industrial Opportunities

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# Most Advanced Gamma-Ray Observatory

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- CTA, the Cherenkov Telescope Array, is the next generation ground-based observatory for gamma-ray astronomy at very high energies
- It will initially have 65 telescopes at two sites, in the North and South
  - Much larger and more sensitive than existing instruments
- It is designed and built in a large international collaboration
- It will be the first gamma-ray observatory run similarly to classical ones
  - Previous and existing instruments are run as experiments
- Cherenkov radiation is electromagnetic radiation emitted when a charged particle passes through a dielectric medium at a speed greater than the phase velocity of light in that medium
  - Discovered 1934 by Pavel Cherenkov (1904-1990) – Nobel price winner



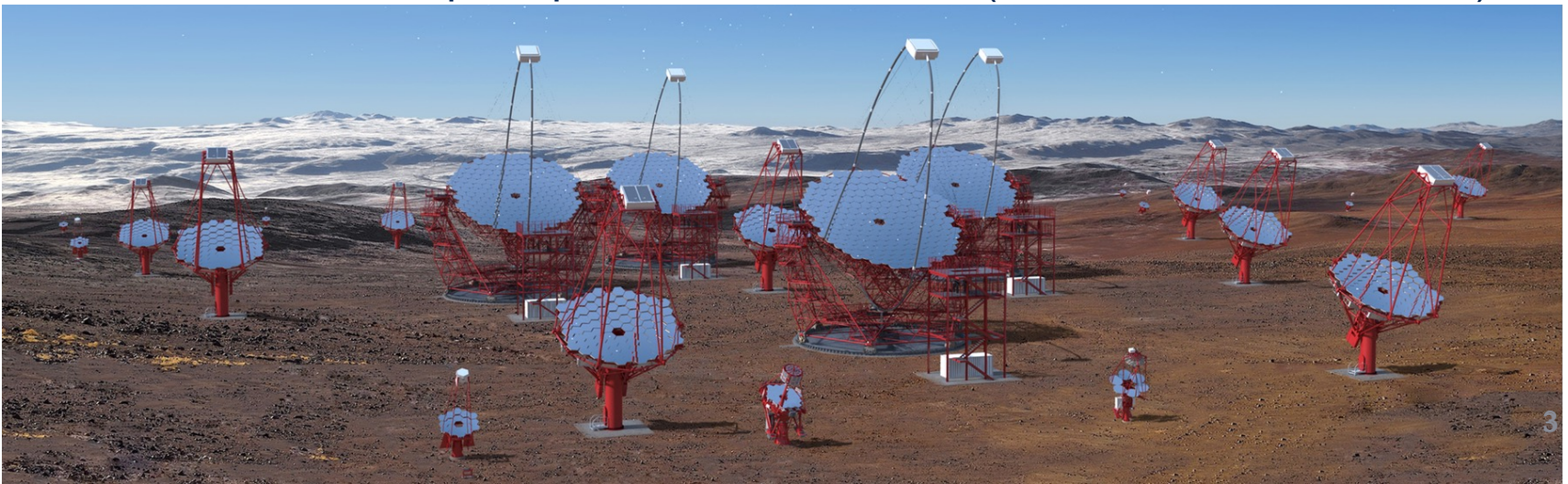
# What is CTA ?



- North: 13 telescopes spread out over  $\sim 0.4\text{km}^2$  (4 LSTs, 15 MSTs)



- South: 55 telescopes spread out over  $\sim 5\text{km}^2$  (4 LSTs, 25 MSTs, 70 SSTs)



# The CTA Observatory (CTAO)

- The CTA Observatory is the legal entity for construction and operation of the Cherenkov Telescope Array
- An interim legal entity for preparation of CTA construction was set up in Heidelberg in 2014 (Germany)
- The final legal entity for construction and operation, a ***European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)***, is being set up under European Union law, in Italy  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/european-research-infrastructures/eric\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/european-research-infrastructures/eric_en)
- The *CTA Project Office* and future Headquarters are located in Bologna (Italy), hosted by INAF
- The *Science Data Management Centre (SDMC)* located in Berlin-Zeuthen (Germany), hosted by DESY in a new building





# CTA Sites: Arrays, Headquarter, Data Center



# CTA Sites: Arrays, Headquarter, Data Center



CTAO North (La Palma)



Heidelberg  
MPIK



Zeuthen  
DESY



Bologna  
INAF



Chile  
Paranal

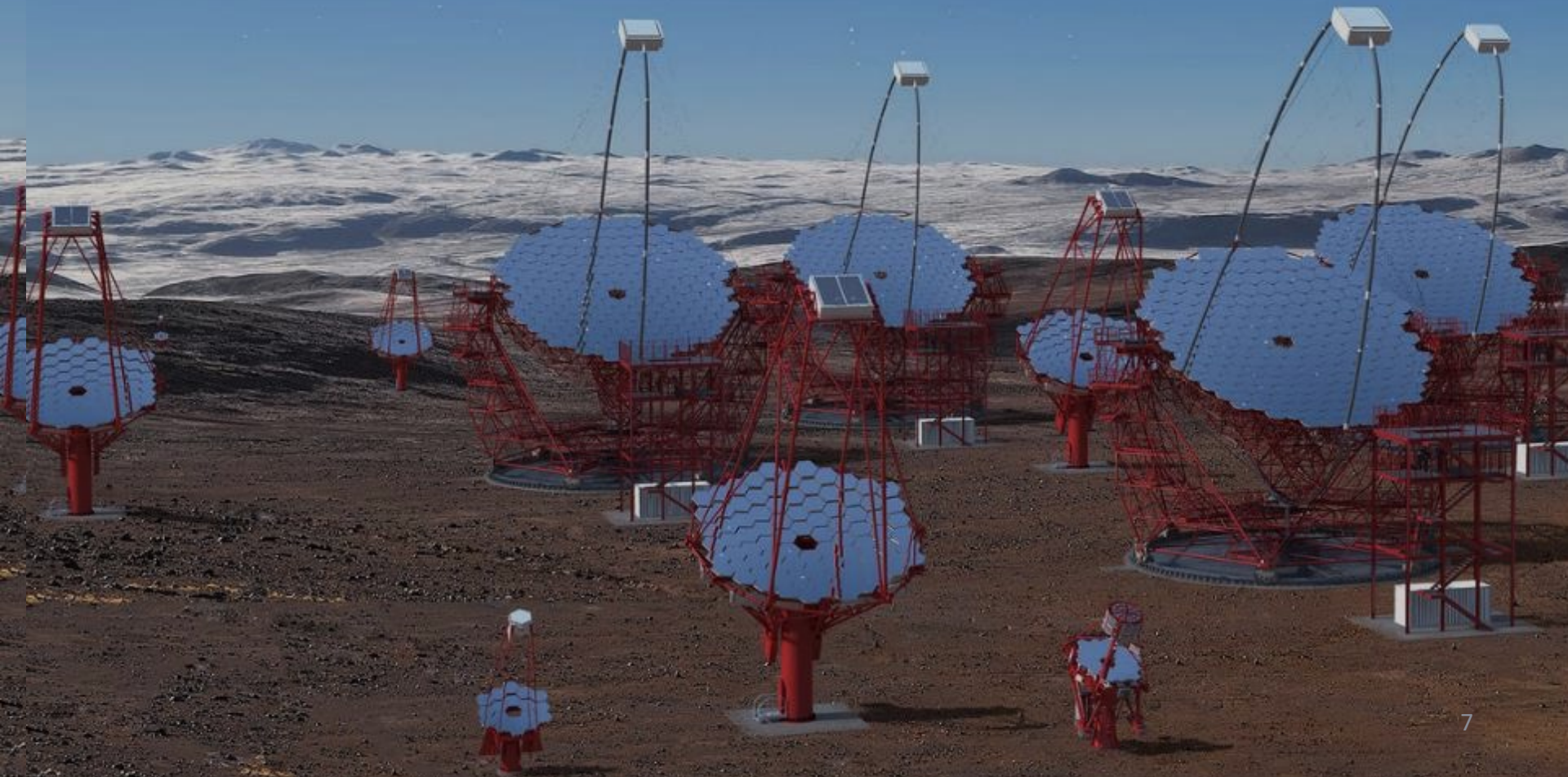


CTAO South (Chile, Paranal)

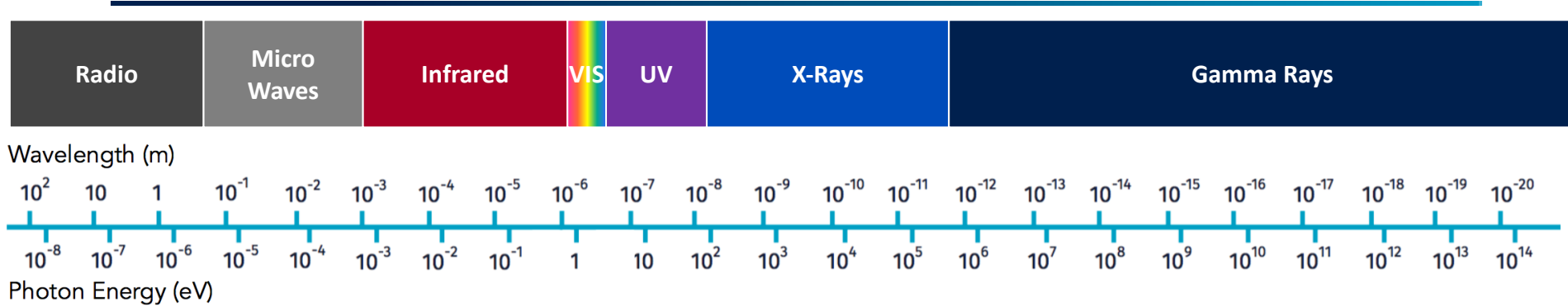
- Array Sites
- CTAO Offices
- Science Data Management Centre



# Why Gamma Rays?



# Waveband Coverage: a New Window



**SKA**

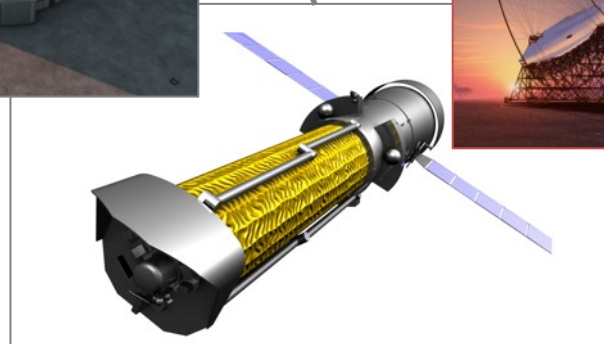
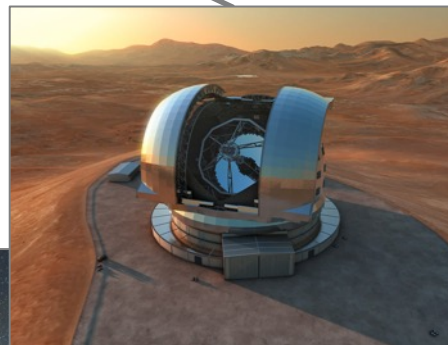
**ALMA**

**ELTs**

**Athena**

Major Astronomical  
Facilities

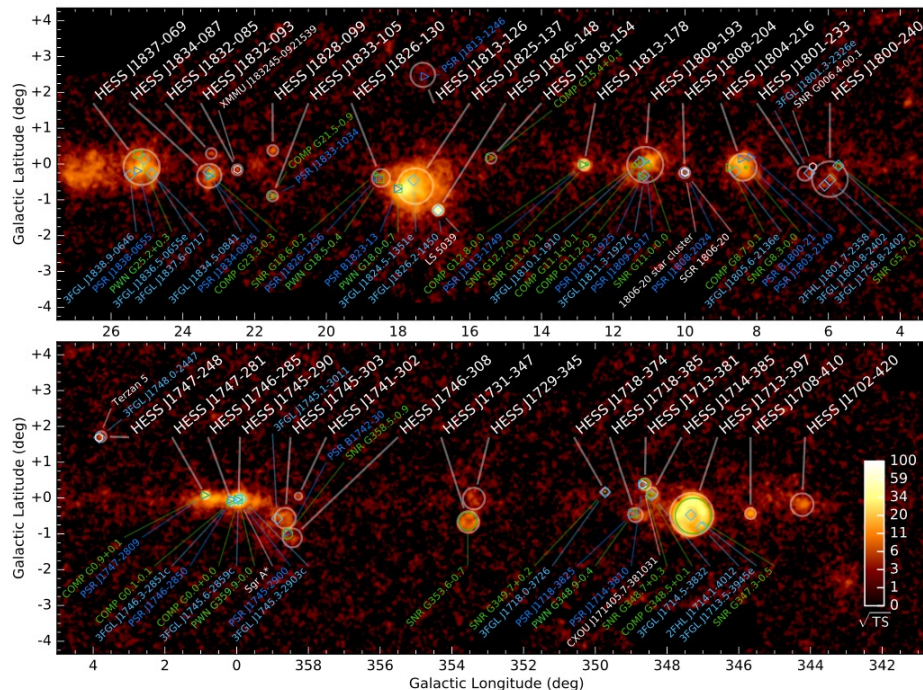
**CTA**





# Why gamma rays: A different sky

- Observation of gamma rays give access to the most energetic phenomena in the Universe
- Gamma ray astronomy is a young field with tremendous discovery potential
  - First astronomical gamma array detection in 1967 by a satellite
  - First ground-based gamma ray observations in early 1970s



H.E.S.S. Coll.  
A&A. Vol 612 (2018)

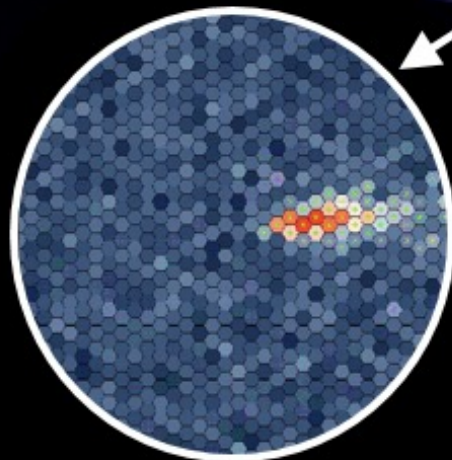
Shown here:  
central 40° of Galaxy

$\gamma$ -ray enters the atmosphere

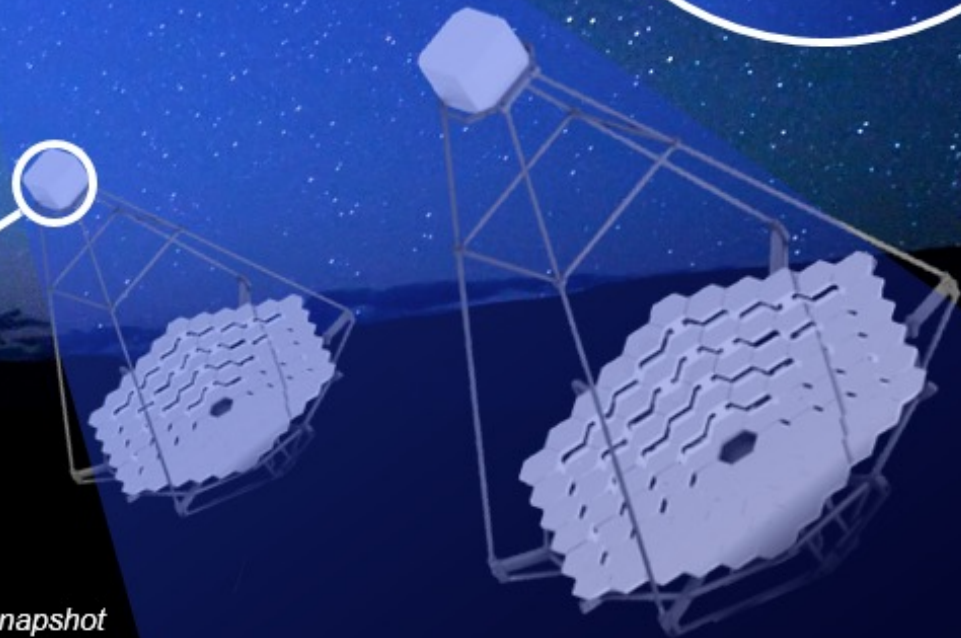
Electromagnetic cascade

**CTA observational technique:**

- Detection of 10 nanosec flashes of blue light caused by the impact of gamma arrays in the upper earth atmosphere
- The “light pool” is detected simultaneously by the telescopes
- Trigger coincidence techniques separate the relevant events from background noise



10 nanosecond snapshot



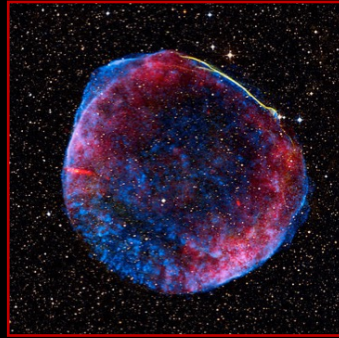
0.1 km<sup>2</sup> “light pool”, a few photons per m<sup>2</sup>.



# CTA science themes

## Theme 1: Cosmic Particle Acceleration

- How and where are particles accelerated?
- How do they propagate?
- What is their impact on the environment?



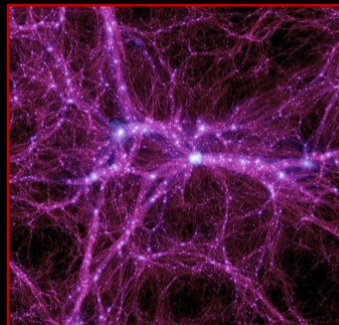
## Theme 2: Extreme Environments

- Close to neutron stars and black holes
- Relativistic jets, winds and explosions
- Cosmic voids



## Theme 3: Physics Frontiers

- What is the nature of Dark Matter?
- Is the speed of light constant?
- Do axion-like particles exist?



Sep 2017, 213 page volume, available at

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1709.07997>

and the CTA web site

Imaging of very faint nano-second long blue light (Cherenkov) flashes requires:

- Three types of telescopes to cover the CTA energy range from 20 GeV to 300 TeV
  - Large-Sized (23m, *LST*), Medium-Sized (12m, *MST*) and Small-Sized (4m, *SST*) Telescopes
- Very sensitive cameras with many pixels ( $\sim 10^3$ ), using photomultiplier tubes (PMTs) or silicon photomultipliers (SiPMs)
- Accurate (nano-second) timing & clock over the whole array
- Challenging calibration techniques and algorithms
  - Earth atmosphere is part of the detector !
- Substantial software development, “Big Data”
  - Expect 3.7 PB (reduced) raw data volume and  $\sim 4$  PB of data products per year



# CTAO & In-Kind Contributions

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- Most of the CTA Observatory will be built with ***In-Kind Contributions*** (IKC) from participating scientific institutions in 10+ countries
  - Most of the industrial procurement done by these institutions
  - Various prototypes of telescopes and cameras have been built by IKCs
  - Project moving now to (serial) production and construction
- The CTAO is the central entity for construction & operation
  - Develops the system concept and subsystem requirements
  - Receives sub-systems & CTAO-North infrastructure as in-kind contributions
  - Procure / builds the CTAO-South infrastructure
  - Integrates sub-systems into the overall observatory system
  - Manages the software development
  - Will operate the observatory

# CTAO-South Site, ESO (Chile)

## CTAO-South in the Atacama desert

- 4 LSTs
- 14 MST
- 37 SSTs

Vulcano Llullaillaco  
6739 m, 190 km east

Cerro Armazones  
E-ELT

Cerro Paranal  
Very Large Telescope

Cherenkov Telescope Array Site



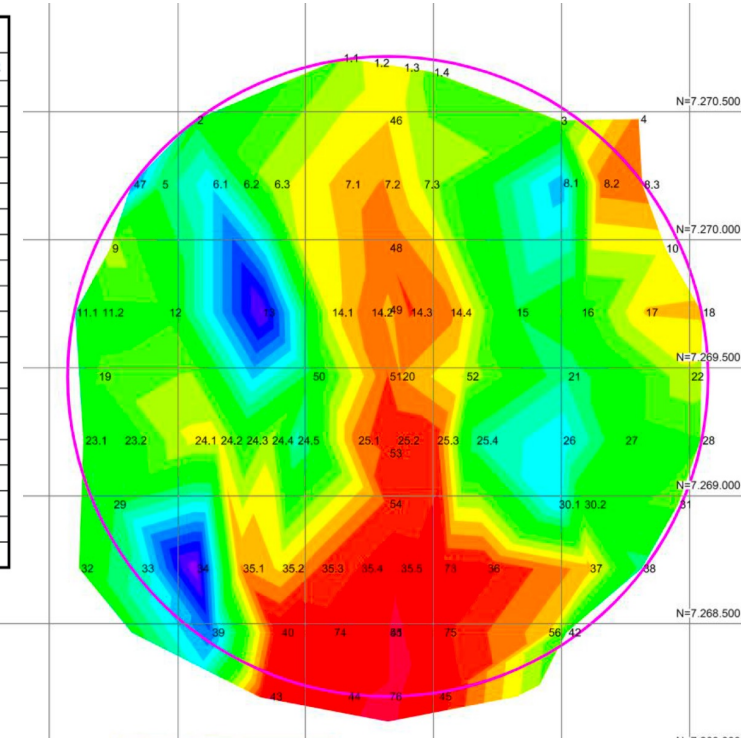




# Atmospheric Testing & Geotechnical studies



VELOCITY RANGES			
NUMBER	VS MIN.	VS MAX.	COLOR
1	250.00	300.00	Red
2	300.00	350.00	Red
3	350.00	400.00	Red
4	400.00	450.00	Orange
5	450.00	500.00	Orange
6	500.00	550.00	Yellow
7	550.00	600.00	Yellow
8	600.00	650.00	Green
9	650.00	700.00	Green
10	700.00	750.00	Green
11	750.00	800.00	Green
12	800.00	850.00	Cyan
13	850.00	900.00	Cyan
14	900.00	950.00	Blue
15	950.00	1000.00	Blue
16	1000.00	1050.00	Blue
17	1050.00	1100.00	Blue
18	1100.00	1150.00	Purple
19	1150.00	1200.00	Purple





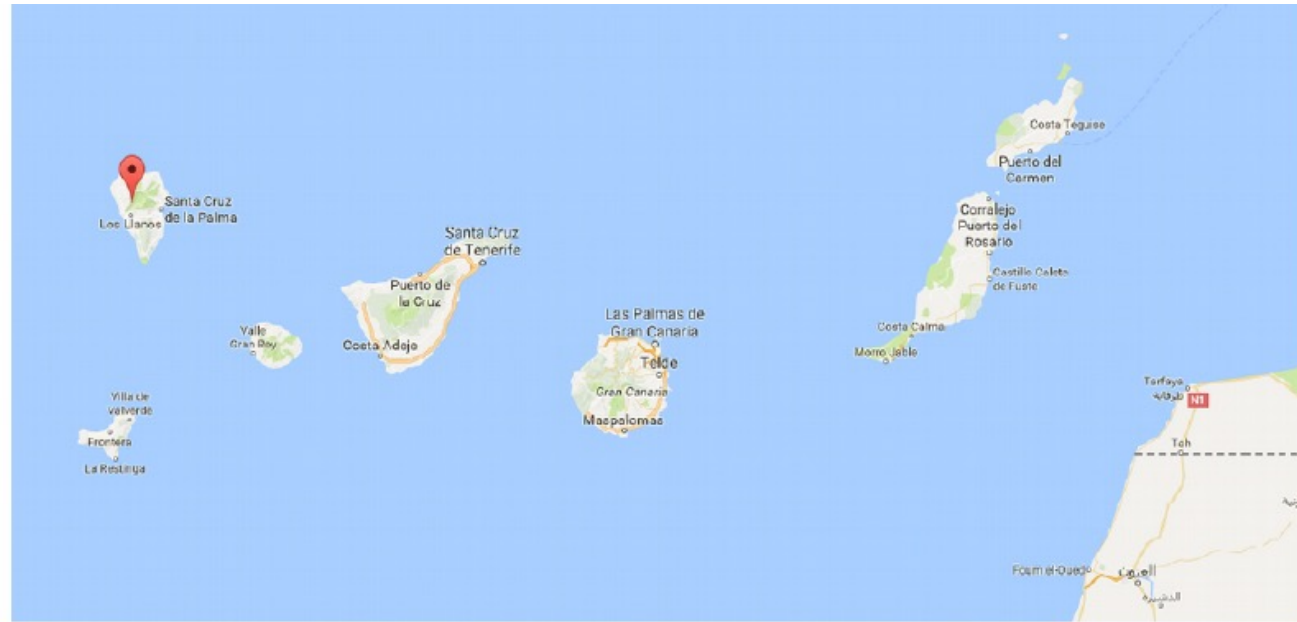
# CTAO-South Access Road Construction



# CTAO-North Site (La Palma, Spain)

Observatorio Roque de los Muchachos, IAC, La Palma, Canary Islands (Spain):

- 4 LSTs
- 9 MSTs





# Prototype Large-Sized Telescope (LST-1)



- 23m LST prototype built and being commissioned on La Palma (Spain)
- By a collaboration of 30+ institutes in 11 countries
- Recent clean-up of ashes after 78-day volcano outbreak on La Palma



# LST-2 to 4 Production (I)

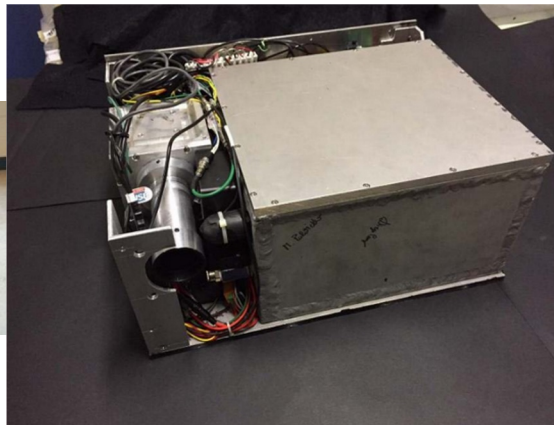
- Progress in tenders and procurement
  - Structure and mechanism in various stage of production, various parts already shipped to La Palma, production distributed (IAC, LAPP, MPP, INFN.....)
  - CFRP arch tubes and cables in production





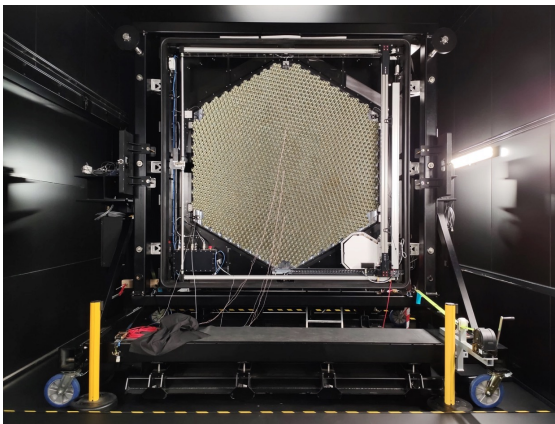
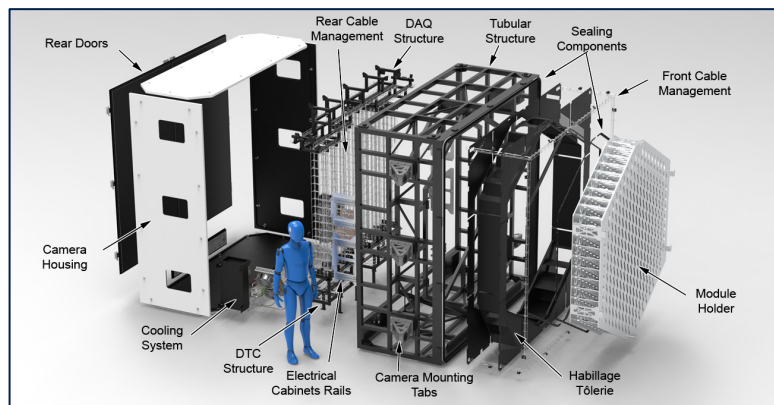
# LST-2 to 4 Production (II)

- Mirrors and cameras progressing well
  - 600+ mirrors and AMC boxes (Japan) in La Palma
  - 1200+ AMC actuators (MPP) in production (completed in 2023)
  - Camera mechanics (IAC) finished for LST2, LST3 and in production for LST4
  - Camera integration LST2 started (Spain)
  - 3 Calibration Boxes plus spare (INFN) before 2023
  - 3 Embedded Controller ECCs (LAPP) ready



# Medium-Sized Telescope (MST)

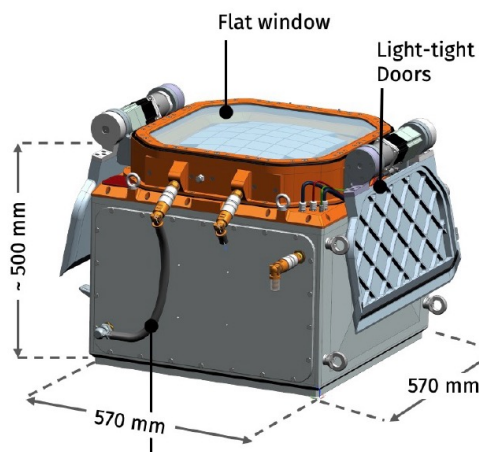
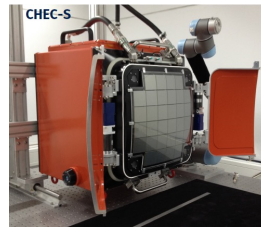
- 14m prototype MST has been built and tested in Berlin (Germany)
  - Telescope structure from DESY (Germany)
  - Two camera models: one from MPIK (Germany) and one from CEA (France)
- Now ramping up for series production for the North and South sites





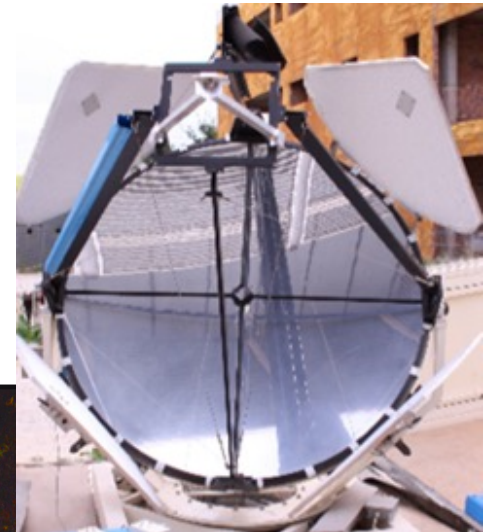
# Small-Sized Telescope (SST)

- 4m dual-mirror prototype built and tested at mount Etna, Sicily
- Precursor SSTs being built in Tenerife (ASTRI mini-array of 9 telescopes)
- 37 SSTs to be built at CTAO-South in Chile
  - SST design for Chile to be finalized
  - Telescope structures to be tendered by INAF (Italy)
  - Cameras from consortium led by MPIK (Germany)



# CTA Calibration and Monitoring

- The CTA Observatory will install calibration and weather monitoring equipment at both array sites
- This includes LIDARs, All-Sky cameras, illuminators and weather towers
  - Some custom-made by scientific institutes, some industry-made





# CTA Construction Status Summary

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- CTA design and prototyping
  - Subsystem design and prototyping almost finished
    - Multiple prototypes for telescope structures and cameras existing
  - System design being finalized
- CTAO-North Site (La Palma, Spain)
  - LST1 being commissioned – LST2-4 production started
  - Infrastructure phase 1: detailed design in progress, preparing Call for Tenders
- CTAO-South Site (Chile)
  - Geotechnical and seismic studies completed
  - Access road being built, other infrastructure being designed
  - First telescopes expected on-site in 2024/25

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# Major CTAO Partners

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Significant hard- and software **in-kind contributions** are expected from the major CTA Observatory partners, including the following:

- **Italy** – INAF, INFN
- **Germany** – DESY, MPIK (Heidelberg), MPP (Munich)
- **France** – CNRS, CEA, OBSPM
- **Spain** – IAC, CIEMAT, IFAE, PIC, ICE/CSIC, UAB
- **Japan** – University of Tokyo
- **Switzerland** – University of Geneva
- **Czech Republic** – Institute of Physics of the Academy of Sciences
- **Slovenia** – University of Nova Gorica
- **UK** – UKRI
- **Austria** – Leopold Franzens Universität
- **The Netherlands** – NWO

# Major Technology Expertise/distribution (*non exhaustive...*)

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- Mirror technologies
  - France
  - Italy
  - Poland
  - Czech Republic
- Telescope structures
  - Italy
  - Germany
  - France
  - Poland
- Cherenkov cameras
  - France
  - Spain
  - Japan
  - Germany
  - Italy
  - UK
  - Netherlands
- Control systems
  - France
  - Italy
  - Germany
  - Slovenia
- Calibration technologies
  - Czech Republic
  - Slovenia
  - Germany
  - Italy
  - Spain
  - France
- Electronics
  - Various countries



# Procurement Key Points

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- No central CTA procurement scheme
  - Infrastructure South procured by CTAO, mostly via ESO (*it includes power distribution*)
  - Some (smaller) items procured directly by CTAO
- CTA is one of the largest In-Kind Contribution projects
  - Procurement money is spent by the IKC institutions
  - Some contracts were / will be awarded to industry, other may involve scientific institutions together with industrial partners
- Public funding
  - All relevant procurements within Europe will have to follow European Tendering rules
- No geographical Fair Return rule
  - Geographical distribution “plays” some role (*often dealt with via generation of international consortia*)

# Invitation to Tender (CTAO gGmbH)



- CTAO gGmbH have to comply with EU Directive 2004/18/EC and special German provisions for public procurement, including
  - Principles applied are non-discrimination and equal treatment, competition, transparency, best value-for-money.
  - Based on this legal framework internal procurement procedures are established.
- Contract value of €30.000 - €221.000 > National Call for Tender (German law applies – publication on portal [www.bund.de](http://www.bund.de)).
- Contract value of over €221.000 > European Call for Tenders (EU Procurement Directive n. 24/2014 applies – publication on OJEU/Ted portal).
- For information about procurement at CTAO gGmbH: [ctao-procurement@cta-observatory.org](mailto:ctao-procurement@cta-observatory.org)



# Invitation to Tender

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- IAC
  - All the information about contracts and tender calls is published at the IAC Contractor's profile available through the Spanish Public Sector Contracting Platform:  
[https://contrataciondelestado.es/wps/portal/!ut/p/b0/04\\_Sj9CPykssy0xPLMnMz0vMAfljU1JTC3Iy87KtCIKL0jZnPPzSooSSxLzSL1w\\_Wj9KMyU5wK9CPT3d2Cc8vNLUvNHW31C3JzHQHrum6M/](https://contrataciondelestado.es/wps/portal/!ut/p/b0/04_Sj9CPykssy0xPLMnMz0vMAfljU1JTC3Iy87KtCIKL0jZnPPzSooSSxLzSL1w_Wj9KMyU5wK9CPT3d2Cc8vNLUvNHW31C3JzHQHrum6M/)
- ESO
  - In general tendering process largely based on most competitive compliant tender and where possible and carried out within the ESO Member States.
  - Information about ESO procurement under  
<https://www.eso.org/public/industry/cp.html>
- (Potential) In-Kind contributors
  - Those interested in opportunities with the IKC teams are encouraged to contact the regional industry contacts listed on the CTAO webpage  
<https://www.cta-observatory.org/project/industry/#1535533438154-65d5d2fa-6b2f>

Thank You !

**cta** OBSERVATORY

