



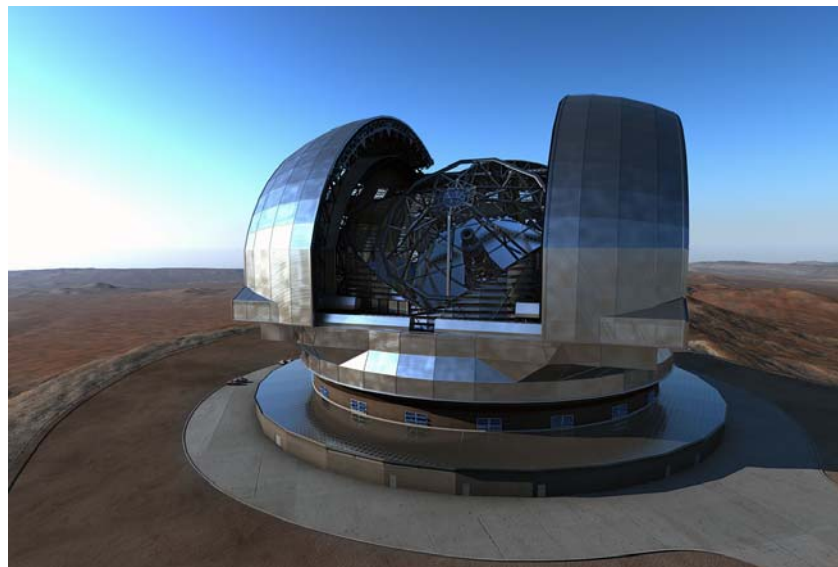
ASTALDI IS THE WINNING BIDDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE LARGEST TELESCOPE IN THE WORLD

Rome, 5 February 2016 – Astaldi Group informs that the Consortium ACe, comprising Astaldi and Cimolai, with EIE Group, is the winning bidder for the design and construction of the “Dome and Main Structure” of the European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT), the largest ground-based telescope in the world.

The Finance Committee at ESO (European Southern Observatory) authorized ESO to enter into final negotiations with the Consortium ACe with the aim of achieving signing of the contract in May 2016. All details will be defined and disclosed subsequent to signing of the contract.

The Consortium ACe comprises Astaldi (65%, leader) and Cimolai (35%), with EIE Group, an international leader in management, design and production in the fields of Astronomy and Astrophysics.

The E-ELT will be the most important project to date approved by ESO and will result in the construction of the largest ground-based telescope to date. The new telescope will be built in Chile on the Cerro Armazones, in the central part of the Atacama desert at an altitude of 3,000 metres above sea level. It will have a focusing capacity that is 100,000,000 times greater than the human eye and will gather more light than all of the most important telescopes to date on the planet, which have primary mirrors measuring 8 to 10 metres in diameter compared to the 39.3-metre diameter of the new E-ELT.



E-ELT render image

The new contract consolidates Astaldi's presence in Chile where the Group has operated for approximately 10 years, including as a Concessionaire in the transport infrastructures, mining and hydroelectric plants and healthcare construction segments. It has built and currently operates a hydroelectric plant (Chacayes, 111MW) and a mining plant to recover metal from sludge (Relaves); it operates and is modernising the largest airport in Chile (Arturo Merino Benitez in Santiago, 15,000,000 passengers/year); it is constructing and will operate a healthcare complex of national standing (West Metropolitan Hospital in Santiago, 599 hospital beds). As regards the Construction sector, it is involved in performing works to expand the CODELCO Chuquicamata mine, the largest open-pit mine in the world to date.

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ASTALDI GROUP is one of Italy's leading General Contractors, and among Europe's top 25 firms in the construction industry, where it also works as a sponsor of project finance initiatives. An international player for 90 years, it addresses the market by developing complex and integrated initiatives in the field of designing, building, and operating public infrastructure and large-scale civil engineering works, mainly in the areas of transport infrastructure, power plants, civil and industrial construction, facility management, plant engineering, and management of complex systems. Quoted on the stock market since 2002, it holds 92nd place in Global Contractor rankings. It ended the 2014 financial year with a total order backlog, including additional orders secured and in the process of being finalized, exceeding EUR 28 billion and revenues of EUR 2.7 billion. It boasts approx. 10,300 employees in Italy, Europe (Poland, Romania and Russia) and Turkey, Africa (Algeria), North America (Canada and the USA), Latin America (Chile, Peru, Venezuela and Central America), the Middle East (Saudi Arabia and Qatar) and the Far East (Indonesia).

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