

Abengoa signs a contract with the European observatory ESO for the construction of the ELT technical facility

- The new facility will host the assembly and maintenance facilities for the mirrors of the Extremely Large Telescope (ELT) mirrors at the ESO Paranal Observatory

March 26, 2018 - Abengoa (MCE: ABG/P:SM), the international company that applies innovative technology solutions for sustainability in the infrastructures, energy and water sectors, has signed a contract with the European Southern Observatory (ESO) to build the ELT (Extremely Large Telescope) technical facility in ESO's Paranal Observatory, in northern Chile.

This new facility will host the assembly and maintenance facilities for the mirrors of the Extremely Large Telescope mirrors as well as the coating, washing and stripping facilities needed to coat and maintain the reflectivity of the mirrors.

The primary mirror of the ELT will consist of 798 separate reflective segments. At the ELT technical facility, the polished segment assemblies will be coated and integrated with the edge sensors on the sides of each segment, to detect the position of each segment relative to its neighbours

Once the telescope is complete and in operation, each segment of the primary mirror will need recoating every 1.5 years to ensure its cleanliness and reflectivity. As there are 798 segments, the most efficient way to do this is to remove, clean, recoat, and replace two or three segments every single day.

The ELT Technical Facility will also house the coating unit for the secondary and tertiary mirrors of the ELT, each of which measures around four metres in diameter.

The facility will also be used for the initial assembly, integration and verification tasks of the mirrors, as well as for future recoating activities.

After around three months of detailed design, construction of the building will begin in the second half of 2018 and will last 11 months.

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The signature event was held at the ESO Vitacura offices in Santiago, Chile, and the contract was signed by the Director General of Abengoa Chile, Sergio Adrian Morreone, and the ESO Director General, Xavier Barcons, in the presence of Willy Benz, ESO Council President, and Ambassador Gabriel Rodríguez, Director of Energy, Science and Technology and Innovation at the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also participating were ESO's Representative in Chile, Fernando Comerón, as well as other officials from ESO and Abengoa.

This new contract serves to strengthen Abengoa's position in Chile, where the company has been present for more than 30 years and has undertaken major electrical and electromechanical projects. Furthermore, it has become leader in the transmission and power generation sector having developed more than 1,800 km of power lines and 50 substations.

About Abengoa

Abengoa (MCE: ABG/P:SM) applies innovative technology solutions for sustainability in the infrastructures, energy and water sectors. (www.abengoa.com)

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