

WST - the Wide-field Spectroscopic Telescope: surveying the Universe in the 2040's and beyond



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Expanding Horizons: Transforming Astronomy in the 2040s

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The European Southern Observatory (ESO) is dedicated to consistently transforming the scientific landscape by designing, building and operating ground-based observatories that push technology to new heights and expand our knowledge of the cosmos. ESO's Extremely Large Telescope (ELT) follows in the footsteps of the 10-year-old collaborative efforts of the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), which remains the most powerful facility capable of studying the cold Universe, and ESO's 25-year-old Very Large Telescope (VLT), which remains at the global forefront of visible-light astronomy.

Now ESO is looking to the future: what breakthroughs in astronomy will we make in the 2040s and beyond? With Expanding Horizons, ESO will search for its next innovative ground-based programme. We aim to identify the next transformational facility that will advance humanity's understanding of the Universe whilst fostering international collaboration.

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