



Press Release

December 18th, 2017

TOPTICA receives the laser guide star contract for ELT from ESO

Munich - December 18th.

TOPTICA signed an updated contract with the European Southern Observatory (ESO) for the production of four more lasers to be used in the adaptive optics system of the Extremely Large Telescope (ELT). The contract is an extension of a development and deployment contract for ESO's Very Large Telescope (VLT) and will be executed by TOPTICA Projects GmbH, a recently started TOPTICA spin-off. These unique guide star laser systems have been extensively tested at one of the major ESO telescopes in Paranal, Chile for more than two years. They will be a key component of the new ELT telescope and will help to achieve an unprecedented spatial resolution for optical/infrared ground-based telescopes. The ELT is expected to see first light in 2024.

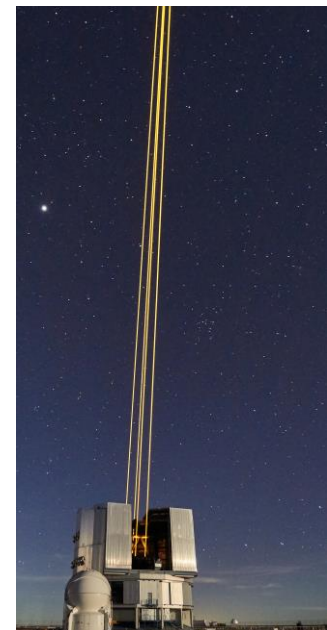
TOPTICA has pioneered the development of diode-laser based fiber-amplified guide star laser systems at 589 nm (Sodium resonance) for astronomical applications over the last 10 years. Recently, together with their partner MPB Communications, TOPTICA was presented with a prestigious Berthold-Leibinger Innovation Award and the team received the Forman-OSA Award earlier this year. Over the past years, further large telescope sites have adopted the guide star laser technology under the brand name "SodiumStar 20/2" into their existing astronomy facilities. Other areas of interest for SodiumStar lasers are in satellite tracking and LIDAR. This well-established laser technology of fixed single frequency or tunable single frequency with output powers of tens of Watts can also be transferred to other wavelengths in the range from 520 nm to 640 nm.

For more information see also the official press release of ESO:

<https://www.eso.org/public/announcements/ann17087/>



The team of TOPTICA Projects GmbH.



Four laser guide stars at ESO VLT UT4.

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TOPTICA Photonics AG develops, manufactures, services and distributes technology-leading diode and fiber lasers and laser systems for scientific and industrial applications. Sales and service are offered worldwide through TOPTICA Germany and its subsidiaries TOPTICA USA and TOPTICA Japan, as well as all through 11 distributors. A key point of the company philosophy is the close cooperation between development and research to meet our customers' demanding requirements for sophisticated customized system solutions and their subsequent commercialization.

TOPTICA Projects GmbH is a TOPTICA Photonics AG subsidiary with focus on specialty laser system development.