For the Technology Division at its Headquarters in Garching near Munich, Germany, ESO is opening the position of

Optical Engineer

(Career Path V)

Purpose and Scope of the Position:

The position is in the Optical Systems Department in the Technology Division at ESO's Headquarters in Garching near Munich. The department comprises a group of about 7 optical and opto-mechanical engineers and technicians who are responsible for the definition, design and manufacture of complex optical and opto-mechanical systems for advanced infrared and optical astronomical instrumentation and telescope systems required for ESO's observatories in Chile. Within ESO's matrix structure, the successful candidate will be working largely in multi-disciplinary project teams charged with the definition and realisation of ESO projects, including various subsystems of a possible 30–60m diameter European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT) that is presently in the design definition phase.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The successful candidate will:

- assist in the definition of the requirements related to all mirrors in the E-ELT,
- be responsible for the follow-up of industrial contracts for the procurement of the mirrors of the E-ELT,
- assist in stray light analyses and emissivity estimates, particularly for the E-ELT,
- be responsible for the testing of the quality of the E-ELT mirrors after integration into the telescope.

Professional Requirements / Qualifications:

Applicants should have a University Degree in Optical Engineering or Physics and at least 5 years professional experience in the design, development, implementation, testing, documentation and operation of optical devices.

Experience with large telescopes, in particular ones with segmented mirrors, would be advantageous.

The successful candidate will be able to work independently as well as to integrate himself into the team designing the telescope. A good command of written and spoken English is required. A working knowledge of German would be an advantage.

Duty Station: The position will be based in Garching near Munich, Germany, with duty travels of several weeks to our observatories in Chile, typically once or twice per year.

Starting Date: As soon as possible.

Remuneration and Contract: We offer an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary (tax free), comprehensive pension scheme and medical, educational and other social benefits as well as financial help in relocating your family and the possibility to place your child(ren) in the Kinderkrippe. The initial contract is for a period of three years with the possibility of a fixed-term or indefinite extension. The title or grade may be subject to change according to qualification and the number of years of experience.

Application: If you are interested in working in areas of frontline technology and in a stimulating international environment, please visit (http://www.eso.org) for further details.

Applicants are invited to apply online at https://jobs.eso.org/. Applications must be completed in English and should include a motivation letter and CV.

Closing date for applications is 15 December 2007.

Although recruitment preference will be given to nationals of ESO Member States (members are: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and United Kingdom) no nationality is in principle excluded.

The post is equally open to suitably qualified male and female applicants.