

Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) Project Status

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Abstract

The TMT is a project to build an extremely large 30-meter optical/infrared telescope under the collaboration of five partner countries including Japan, the United States of America, Canada, China, and India. In 2014, an agreement was executed between the participating organizations, TMT International Observatory (TIO) was founded to assume the construction and operation of the observatory, and construction commenced.

Although the commencement of full-fledged construction was planned for Fiscal Year 2015, construction was halted due to a protest movement against construction. While Maunakea in Hawaii continues to be the preferred choice for the location of the TMT, TIO has identified Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos (ORM) on La Palma in the Canary Islands, Spain as the primary alternative to Hawaii. Although the onsite construction has been delayed, mass production of the telescope primary mirror, design works of the telescope subsystems including science instruments have proceeded according to plan in the partner countries.

We present the progress of the TMT project, status of the Hawai`i construction site, and Japan's progress on its work share.