Today, the original hopes of the five founding members have not only become reality but — as new Member States have joined over the years — ESO has fully taken up the challenge of its mission to design, build and operate the most powerful ground-based observing facilities on the planet.

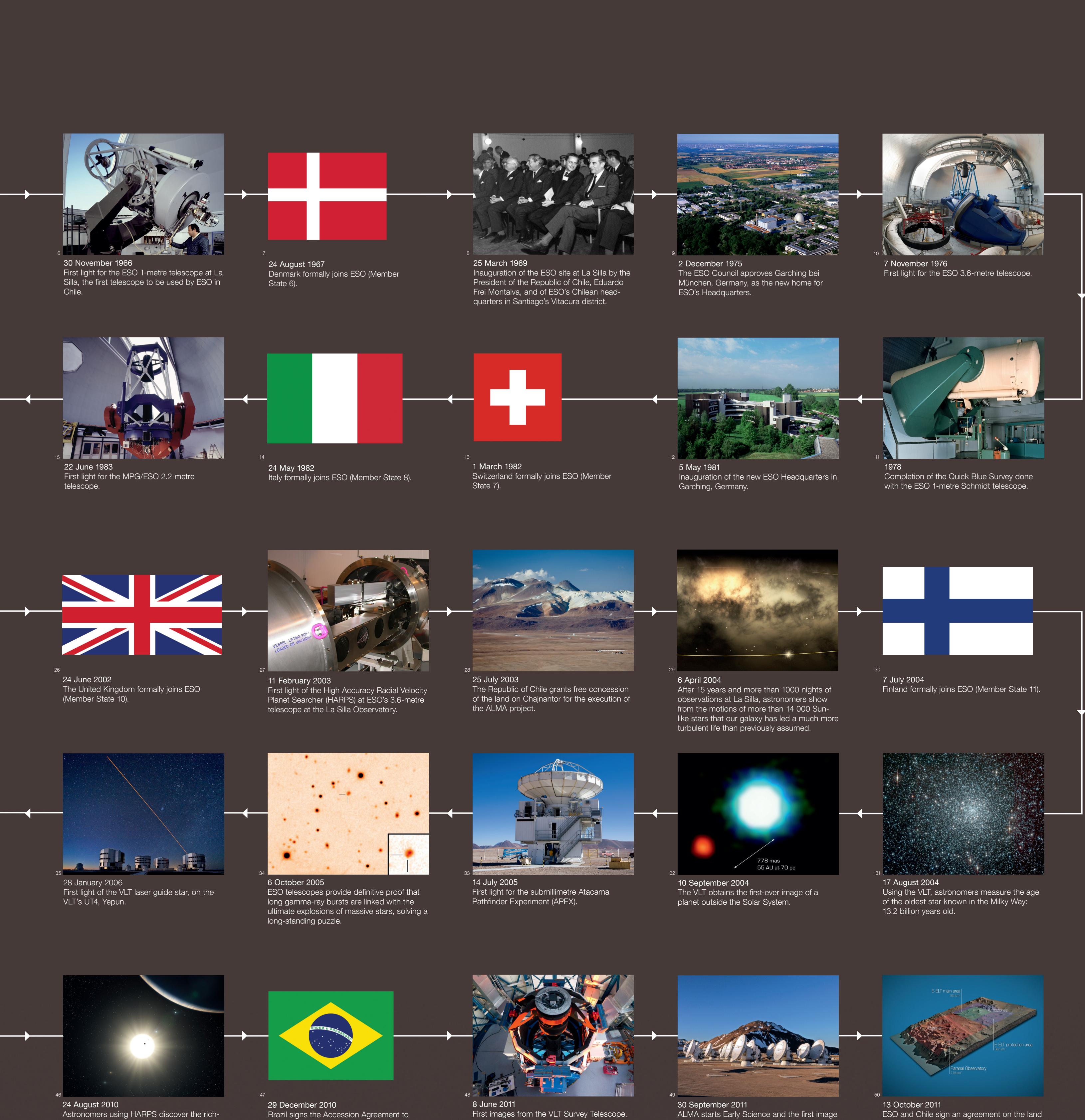
est planetary system so far, containing at least

five planets around the Sun-like star HD

10180.

become a member of ESO.

On the Chajnantor Plateau in northern Chile, together with international partners, ESO is developing and operating the biggest ground-based astronomical project in existence, the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA). And ESO is preparing to build the world's biggest eye on the sky, the European Extremely Large Telescope. Constantly at the technological forefront, ESO is ready to tackle new and as yet unimaginable territories of scientific discovery.





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