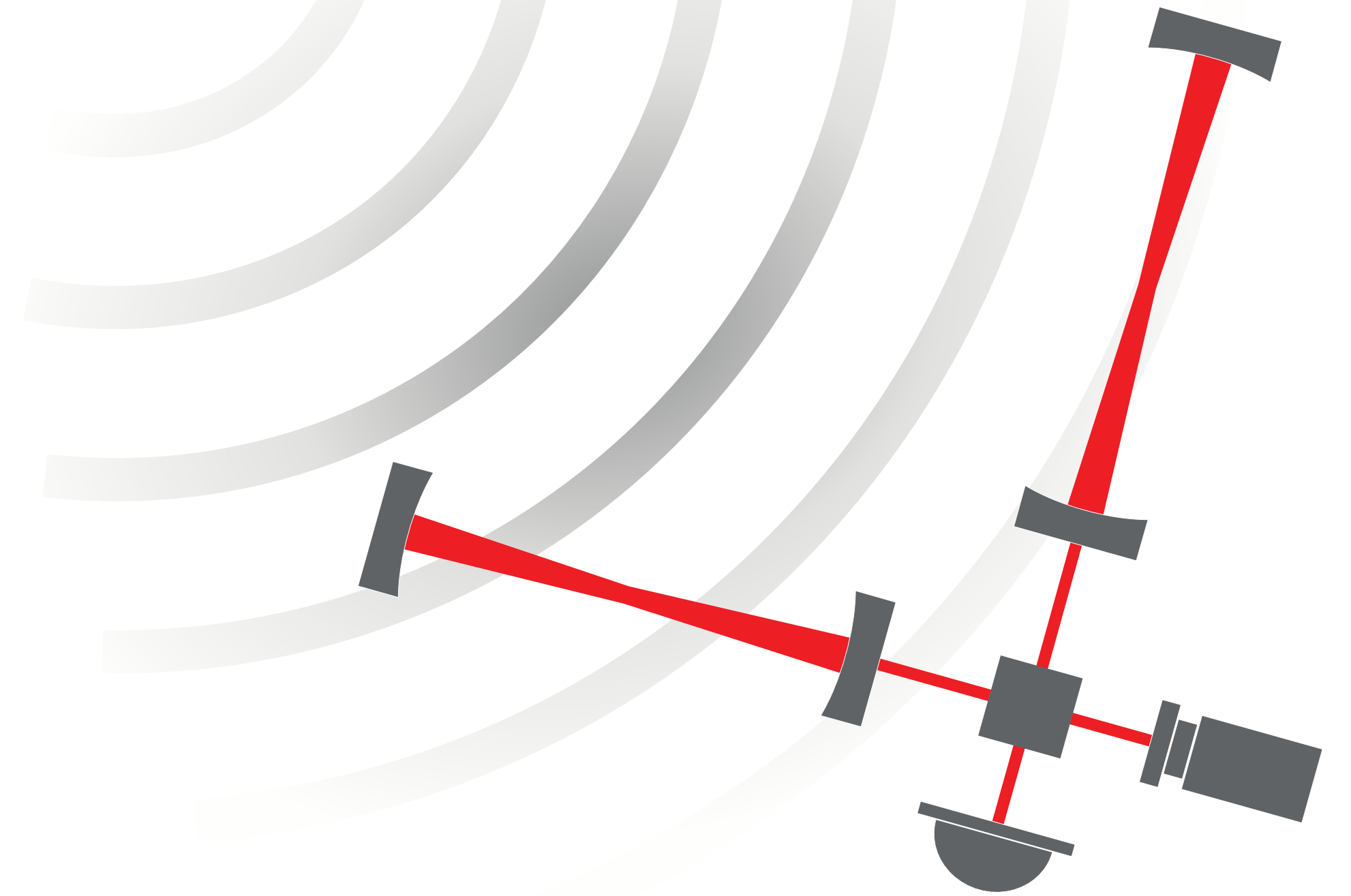
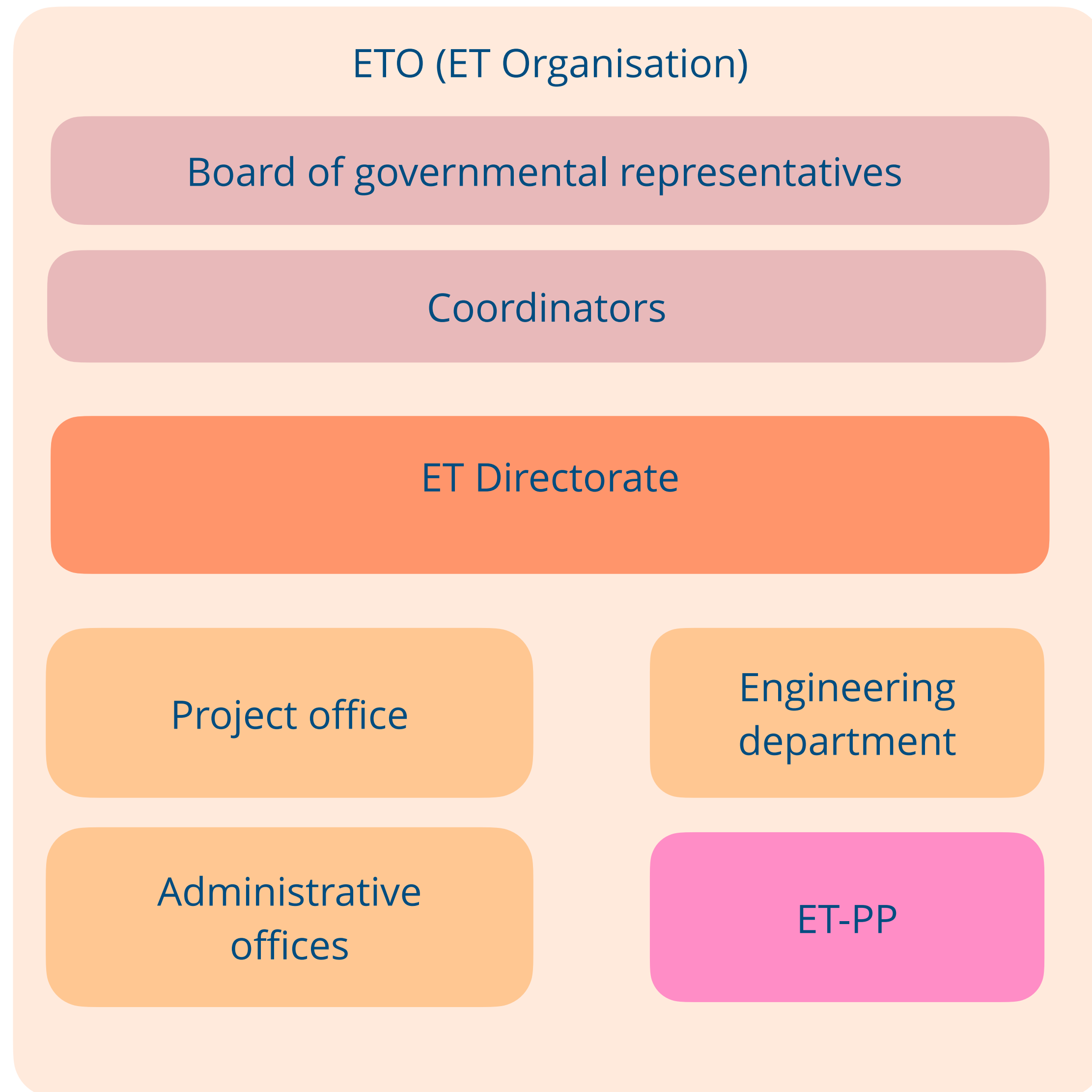


News from the ET Organisation (ETO)



Andreas Freise, Fernando Ferroni,
ET-PP INFRA-DEV Annual Meeting, ET-0376A-25, 22.07.2025

ETO: an novel organisation for realising the Einstein Telescope



ET Organisation (ETO): a novel way of organising a large European project during the preparation phase and first part of the implementation phase.

Based on experience from recent projects (CTA, SKA, KM3NET, etc), we developed a plan for:

- establishing direct governmental engagement
- creating a professional non-scientific organisation to coordinate and organise the ET Project.

In plain words, ETO should:

- Answer the question: Is the Einstein Telescope feasible?
- Provide accurate and realistic costs and schedules.
- Control transparent and independent processes towards decisions points (which geometry, which site).
- Build an organisation to host the ET project.

The ETO Team – distributed and united



Photo from our latest ETO General Meeting in Rome, 27-28 November 2024

The next meeting will take place on 15-17 September 2025 on Elba

ETO: Departments and Personnel

Note: the named people present the current ETO Management Team

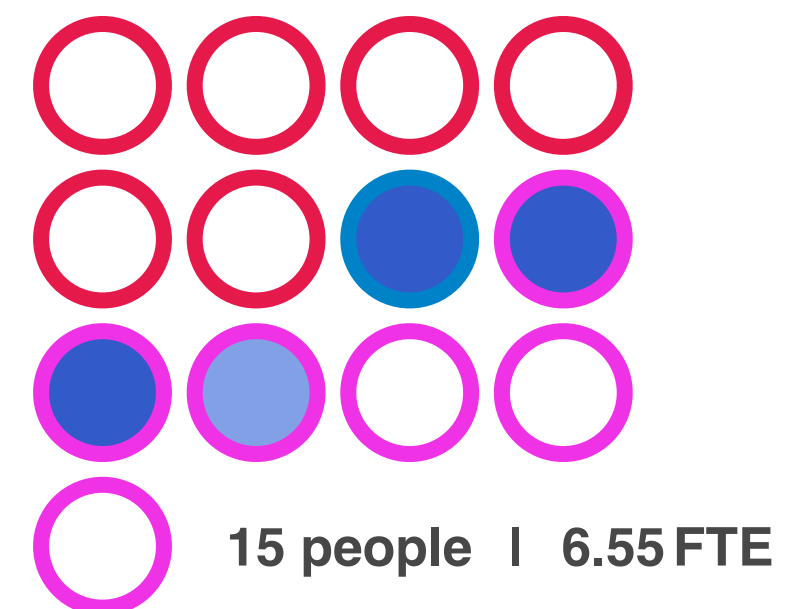
ETO Directorate

- Fernando Ferroni – ETO Director
- Andreas Freise – ETO Director
- Daniela Trani – ETO Associate Director
- TBD
- Mario Martinez – ET-PP Coordinator



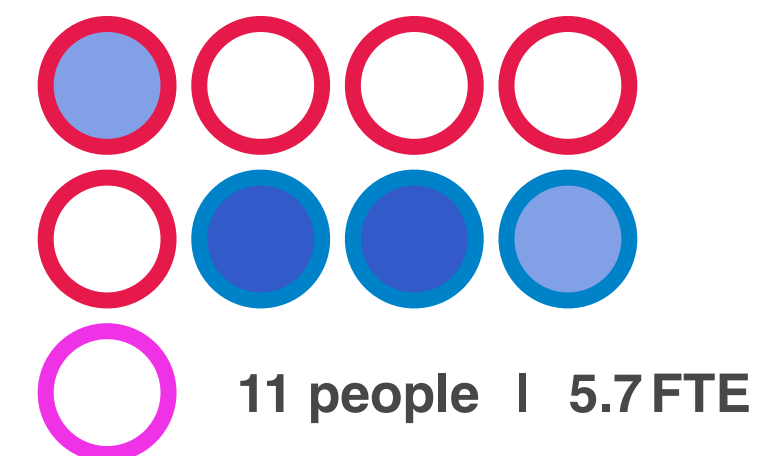
Project Office

- Alessandro Variola – Head Of Department
- Fiodor Sorrentino – Technical Coordinator



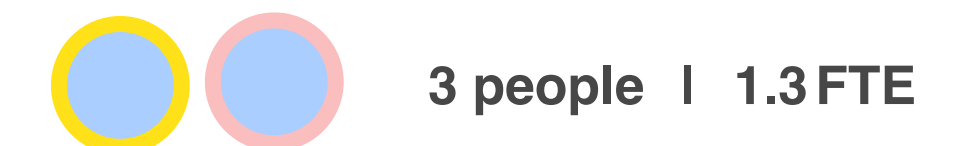
Engineering Department

- Patrick Werneke – Head Of Department
- Maria Marsella – Lead Civil Engineering



Communication Office

- Martine Oudenhoven – Head Of Department



ETO Personnel Overview

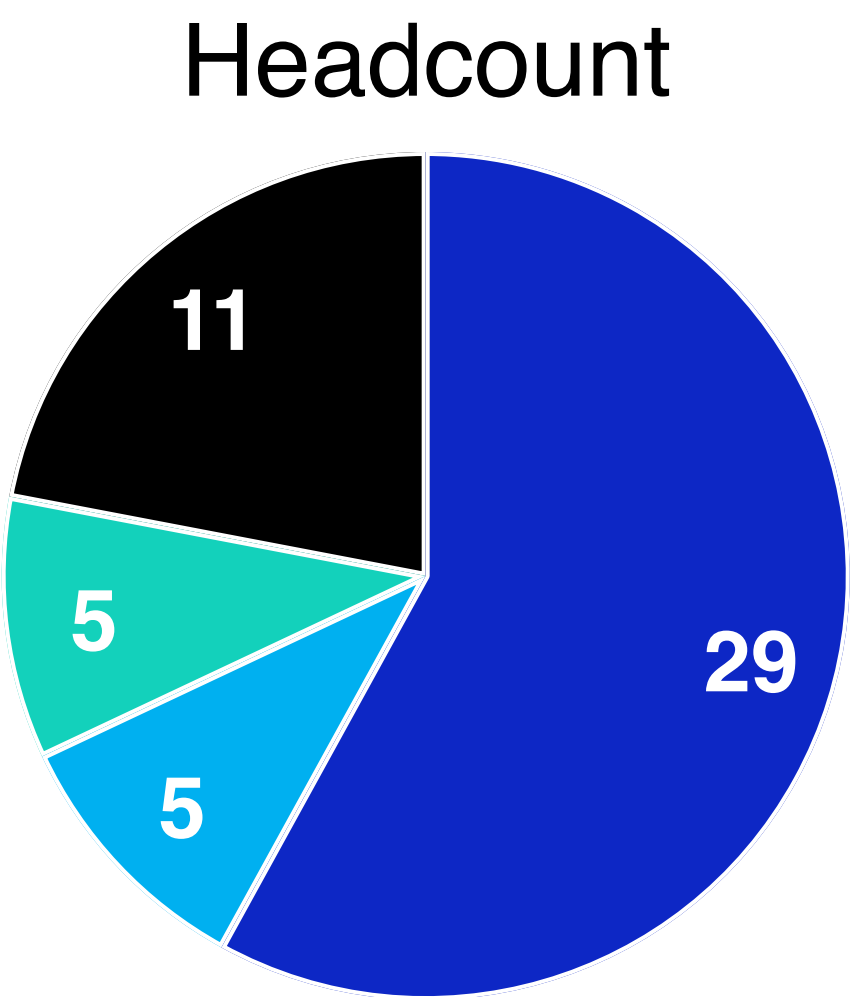
Our current team includes:

- **39 People** within an ETO Departement of which:
 - 5 dedicated hires,
 - 5 people (partially) funded through ET-PP
- **11 People** working at CERN under the relevant collaboration agreements

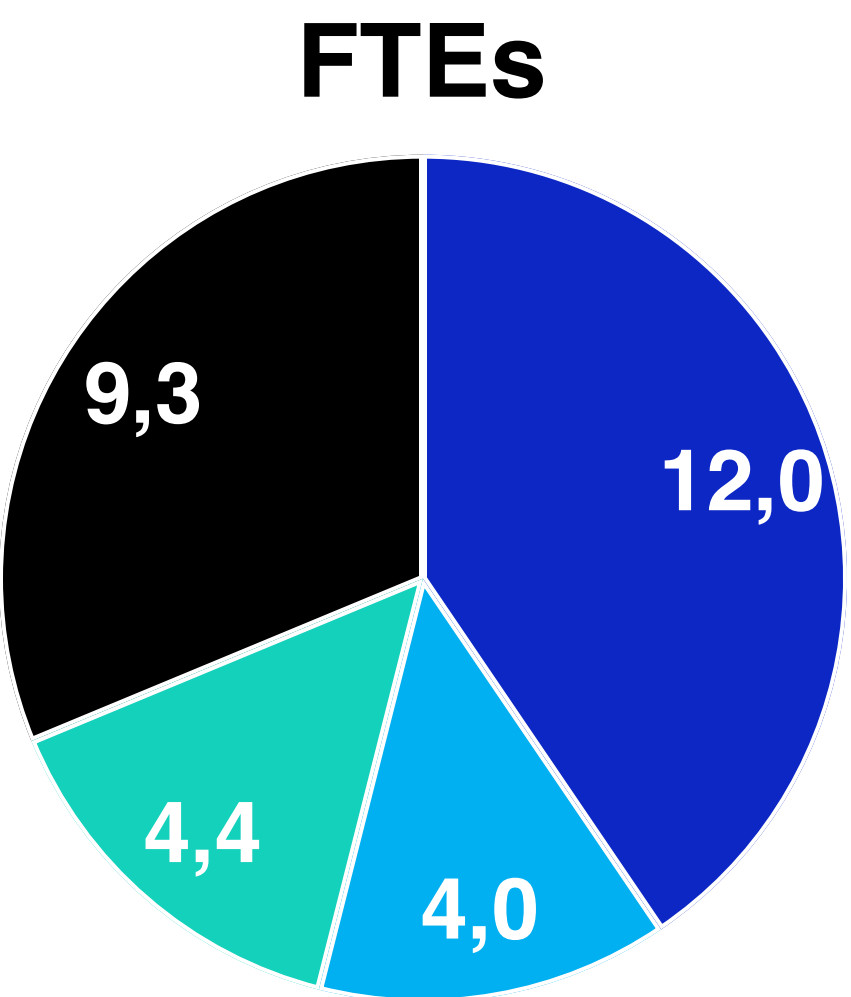


Non-staff members are especially critical — they include

- Personnel on temporary contracts (at institutions or CERN)
- Hires funded through temporary ET-PP grants



- Staff
- Dedicated Hires



- ET-PP Funded
- Employed Through CERN

ETO's current costs – the CERN Collaboration

Currently, only the costs defined in the CERN agreements (total value: €7.2M) are accounted for

- ET partners cover around €6,4M
- CERN provides the remaining €0,8M as in-kind contributions, as specified in the agreements

Agreement	Start Date	End Date	Financed by ETO Fund?	Total Value [k€]	ET Share [k€]
Collaboration On Vacuum Systems	01/08/2022	31/07/2025	No	1.749	1.189
Civil Engineering Study	01/10/2023	31/12/2026	No	353	353
Commitments Before ETO Fund Setup				2.102	1.542
Extension of Vacuum Collaboration	01/03/2025	20/12/2027	Yes	2.040	1.759
Safety and Engineering Study	01/04/2025	31/03/2028	Yes	3.055	3.055
Commitments Since ETO Fund Setup				5.095	4.814
Grant Total				7.196	6.357

Agreements enabling ETO's work with CERN

- Collaboration on Vacuum Systems (CERN, INFN and Nikhef, total project value: end date: July 2025.
- Civil Engineering Study (CERN, INFN, Nikhef, and IFAE), end date: December 2026.
- Extension of Collaboration on Vacuum Systems (CERN, INFN, Nikhef and IFAE), signed February 2025, end date: December 2027.
- Safety and Engineering Study (CERN, INFN and Nikhef), signed by CERN, recently signed, end date: March 2028.
- EDMS, implementing for ET a professional, project oriented, document lifecycle management tool.

Widening the scope of ETO

- A letter from the Board of Governmental Representatives (BGR) on 18.12.2024 to the ET Coordinators includes these statements:
- "The BGR noted that the multiplicity of players involved in the project, notably ETO, ETC, and candidate sites, presented some coordination challenge [...]". "The BGR expressed the wish to address this situation and **strongly supports strengthening the role of ETO as project leader for Einstein Telescope** [...]"
- "[...] we thus invite you to prepare a **proposal of actions to be taken to enable ETO to play this leadership role**. This proposal could include, for instance, a revision of the mandate of ETO Directors, specific support expected from the BGR, and a review of the relationship with the ET Collaboration, the candidate sites and possibly other actors."
- May 2025: ETO and ET Coordinators submit to the BGR: a 'Provisional Summary of a Work Plan' and a proposal for a Positioning Mandate for ETO. Both documents are to inform the BGR about a possible work plan and its implications.

Update from the BGR (July 2025)

News received via a letter from the BGR to the ET Coordinators:

- “[...] the **BGR endorses the positioning mandate and the provisional workplan for ETO** but requests some clarifications and modifications on the part related to the communications with other bodies. It also gives you, as ET Coordinators, the mandate to **develop a detailed mandate and workplan for ETO**, to be tabled at the next BGR meeting.”
- “[...] **the BGR tasks ETO to provide a geometry comparison report** (triangle vs. two L) on five site-independent elements (scientific added value, lifetime costs, risks, governance and socio-economic impact – including environment aspects) as soon as possible. ETO is requested to present a schedule for the delivery of this report at the next BGR meeting and to present progress at each upcoming meeting.”
- “The **BGR also endorses the mandate for ETO to coordinate the HE Infradev proposal and suggests INFN as administrative coordinator.** ”
- “A consensus was reached on the ET project timeline until January 2026 [...]. Further discussions are needed on the respective timings of bid book submission, geometry and site decisions, so as to align views by the next BGR meeting.”
- **We will initiate very soon leadership meetings with the ET Collaboration and the Host Consortia for a collaboration on this topics.**

More news about Germany

On July 8, the results of the national prioritization process of the German Federal Ministry for Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) were announced and The preparatory phase of the Einstein Telescope (ET) project is one of the nine selected projects.



<https://www.bmbf.de/DE/Forschung/Wissenschaftssystem/Forschungsinfrastrukturen/Priorisierungsverfahren/priorisierungsverfahren.html>

Unrelated to this above, there is also this text from the BGR: **“The BGR considers Lusatia as a candidate site**, and we acknowledge that this implies additional work for ETO. This calls for formal support at regional level for the Lusatia candidature. **Financial support from Germany is also essential to support ETO’s work** in the light of the candidatures put forward by two German regions.”

Call for in-kind contributions

- As part of the overall future ETO work plan, we are identifying profiles for possible in-kind contributions to the ETO departments.
- In addition, we have identified **immediate urgent needs** and will soon issue a call for contributions.
- For example, urgent needs include several positions in the **ETO Project Office** (on configuration, quality management, resource coordination and risk coordination) as well as **legal advice** for the ETO Directorate and support for the **ETO Communication Department**.
- We will develop **in-kind schemes to integrate contributions from individual institutes into a centrally managed project**.

Beyond ET-PP

- ET-PP will end in summer 2026. We must now start to plan for what happens after ET-PP ends.
- ET-PP provided as seed funding for ETO. We need to enable ETO to absorb many of the ET-PP funded activities and request funding for that.
- ETO has been given the mandate to coordinate a proposal for the upcoming INFRADEV call for an early implementation project.
- Both topics will be discussed in the last session of this week, Thursday 11:00

Conclusion

- ETO is using novel and innovative concept of providing strategic central project management early.
- We have been successful in building a great core team with a clear goal.
- Now ETO's role and scope will expand according to the project needs.
- A new work plan, mandate and budget request will be submitted to the BGR in October 2025.
- “Without a strong ETO there will be no ET.”

... end.