

Deep Space LIVE

ESO: Switch on the Radio!

Thursday, May 19, 2011 / 8-9 PM / Ars Electronica Center

(Linz, May 16, 2011) Tune in to radio astronomy at the next Deep Space LIVE presentation on Thursday, May 19, 2011. Dietmar Hager, astrophotographer and Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, will host a high-definition look at the European Southern Observatory that operates one of the world's most powerful radio telescopes. Situated at over 5,000 meters above sea level atop the Chajnantor Plateau amidst Chile's Atacama Desert, this gigantic antenna picks up signals from outer space—radio waves that make a major contribution to improving our understanding of the universe and the origins of our Solar System.

Radio Waves / Radio Astronomy

Radio waves are electromagnetic radiation produced by the oscillations of electrical and magnetic fields. A technical instrument—a receiver—is needed to pick them up. Because other celestial bodies are such enormous distances away from Earth, the radio waves we receive from them are extremely weak, which is why radio astronomers set up huge antennas to concentrate them. The radio waves are amplified, electronically stored and analyzed.

The European Southern Observatory

The ESO is a research facility operated by 14 European countries and Brazil. The location in Chile was selected because it offers outstanding conditions for astronomical observation: a very dry atmosphere, minimal air currents and little air pollution.

Deep Space LIVE

The Ars Electronica Center is now hosting a Deep Space LIVE event every Thursday (except holidays) at 8 PM. Each presentation will feature ultra-high-definition imagery in 16x9-meter format and will be accompanied by expert commentary, entertaining stand-up repartee, and musical improvisation. Whether great works from the history of art, space travel, journeys of discovery in the Nanoworld, or a live concert is what you've come to behold, Deep Space LIVE stands for enlightening entertainment amidst breathtaking worlds of imagery. Admission (including an accompanying person) is €2. Holders of a valid Museum ticket are admitted free of charge.

Stargazer Observatory / Dietmar Hager: <http://www.stargazer-observatory.com/>

ESO: <http://www.eso.org/public/>

Ars Electronica Center: <http://new.aec.at/center/about/>

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