

Title: **WST - The Wide Field Spectroscopic Telescope**

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Summary:

The WST project aims to design and build an innovative 10-meter-class wide-field spectroscopic survey telescope (WST) in the southern hemisphere. It will operate two powerful instruments in parallel: a high-multiplex (30,000), wide field-of-view (3 square degrees) multi-object spectrograph (MOS) offering both medium- and high-resolution modes, and a giant panoramic integral field spectrograph (IFS).

The ambitious top-level requirements of WST place it well ahead of any existing or planned facility. In just its first five years of operation, the MOS will observe 250 million galaxies and 25 million stars at medium resolution, plus 2 million stars at high resolution. Simultaneously, the IFS will collect 4 billion spectra. WST is expected to deliver transformative results across nearly all areas of astrophysics.

Positioned as the next major flagship project in the post-ELT era, WST will be proposed to ESO in June 2027, in response to their anticipated call for ideas. The concept study is funded by the EU Horizon programme and supported by a large, experienced consortium of institutes across 9 European countries and Australia.

In this talk, I will present the current status of the project and open the discussion on the potential role of the French community—how we can get organized to become a key contributor to this groundbreaking facility.