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Coating Chamber of the Future LSST Telescope arrives in Chile

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The Coating Chamber for the Great Synoptic Exploration Telescope (LSST), funded by the National Science Foundation of the United States (NSF), arrived at the Puerto de Coquimbo Terminal on October 23 after a trip of 12 weeks from Deggendorf, Germany, where it was built.

The 128-ton coating chamber will be divided into two parts (upper and lower) and transported in large trucks from Coquimbo to the top of Cerro Pachón, where the 8.4-meter telescope is built. This will



The telescope will start operations in 2022.

require logistics in their transportation on the roads in conjunction with the authorities, taking care of the load of hanging signs and public service cables along the route.

The coating chamber is a key piece of the LSST construction as it will be used to coat the two LSST mirrors before the 10-year investigation begins, and a new layer of the mirrors will be coated periodically during operations. It is anticipated that the primary / tertiary mirror of 8.4 meters (M1M3) will require a new coating every two years during the 10-year LSST investigation, and the secondary mirror of 3.5 meters (M2) will be recoated every five years.

< The work is done with a complete planning between the operations team of TPC and AURA, to provide an excellent service with the highest safety standards, which is part of our operational seal, and meet the needs of our customers, safeguarding the lives of our workers, "explained Luis Fernando Raga, general manager of TPC (Terminal Puerto Coquimbo). >

The executive added that the pieces will be stored inside the terminal between 4 and 5 days, to be dispatched in a coordinated manner.

The Great Synoptic Exploration Telescope (LSST) will be a game changer for astronomy due to the unprecedented research of a decade that will take place, which will allow scientific discoveries in four main areas: understanding the subject dark and dark energy, catalog the Solar System, explore the changing sky, and investigate the formation and structure of the Milky Way.

"This milestone marks an important moment in the construction of our LSST project, which is already at an advanced stage of construction, **according to schedule, the telescope will begin operations in 2022 and aims to revolutionize the field of astronomy with its large** This will not only impact global astronomy but also scientific research carried out in Chile and particularly in the **Coquimbo Region, "says the Acting Director of the AURA Observatory in Chile, Hernán Bustos.**