



OPENING OPPORTUNITIES

Economic and political 'prize'

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Also present was the senior Director of the LSE, Christian Thiel.

Island President Antonio Morales underlined that the London School is to be housed in a building provided by the Island Council which they acquired for €2.5 million. "We are just putting the final touches so that this prestigious British public university, which has already formed 52 state presidents in its rank, can be up and running. It will enhance the island's external image. It's an investment in the future" Morales said.

Canary Islands President Clavijo sees the LSE as an opportunity to develop great potential and attract the investment of international companies. Numerous multinational companies have already expressed their interest, including four specific enquiries from Wingcopter, Dronemasters, Zipline and Mastercard. In addition, 80 per cent of the LSE students come from outside Britain, which will make the Canary Islands better known as a business location abroad.

"We are delighted to be working with the Canary Islands. The archipelago is in a unique position: as an innovative cluster in Europe with a focus on green and blue economic cycles; vertical mobility and as a close link between Europe and Africa" said senior LSE Director Christian Thiel.



↑ Fernando Clavijo in conversation with the management of the project
↓ The LSE 'lab' is in the middle of the capital

Research University

The London School of Economics and Political Science is a global centre for economics and applied science. It's involved in over 200 projects in 90 countries, regions and cities. In 2014, Research Excellence Framework classified the British School as one of the world's leading research universities.



The University was founded in 1895, attached to the University of London, and is now one of the most prestigious faculties in economics and social sciences in the world. The vast majority of the students do not come from Great Britain, which underlines the international character of the LSE.

SEEING STARS AFAR

Island Council still hopeful

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La Palma was one of five areas of the world which were tested for potential location of the telescope, but Hawaii actually won the contract. However, ongoing difficulties there have led to La Palma being in the forerunning again, to the point that Mayor Rodríguez sounds pretty convinced that the island will soon be its home, explaining confidently that: "In consultation with the organisers, we assume that the application for a license will be submitted in April and that the first instalment of €70,000 will follow".

However, negotiations in Hawaii continue. Unfortunately, the planned site, Mount Mauna Kea, is a sacred place to local indigenous people and opposition to the telescope's installation is growing in ferocity. "The protests are even stronger than at the beginning of the discussion and have even reached some North American universities. This is very unpleasant for the organisers," explains La Palma's mayor. "We have done our homework in the last few weeks and prepared everything for licensing. We have also made some modifications to formal and technical content that were requested by the central government. This super telescope would mean new jobs for us, population growth and the attention of astrophysicists at the international level," he explained. One of the agreements is that for 70 years, scholarships will be given to secondary schools in the area. "The preparatory phase is coming to an end to finally clarify the future of the telescope. If the problems in Hawaii go on, as is to be expected at the moment, the chances on our side of the Atlantic of winning the contract will increase. We expect to have the start of the licensing process on the table in April, and the project will be welcomed with open arms here, by citizens and the authorities alike," Rodríguez stressed.

The Super Telescope

The Thirty Meter Telescope has a segmented mirror design and will be able to provide images that are twelve times sharper than those of the famous Hubble Space Telescope. Research areas for the project will include dark energy, the evolution of galaxies over the last 13 billion years, the relationship between black holes and galaxies, the study of individual stars and their cycles, and the search for life outside our solar system. It is a next-generation observatory and a prestige project developed jointly by Californian, Canadian, Indian and Japanese universities and funded by various foundations.

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