

# GTC Telescope: training and education activities

*A. Cabrera-Lavers*  
**GRANTECAN**



## *GTC telescope*

- Located at 2267 m.a.m.s.l. in **Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos, La Palma.**
- Construction started in **2000**, first light in 2007, and operations in **2009.**
- **10.4 m** alt-az Ritchey-Chrétien configuration (Total moving weight 400 T).
- Effective collecting area **73 m<sup>2</sup>.** **Largest optical telescope in the world.**
- Effective focal length 169.9 m → plate scale **1.21 arcsec mm<sup>-1</sup>.**

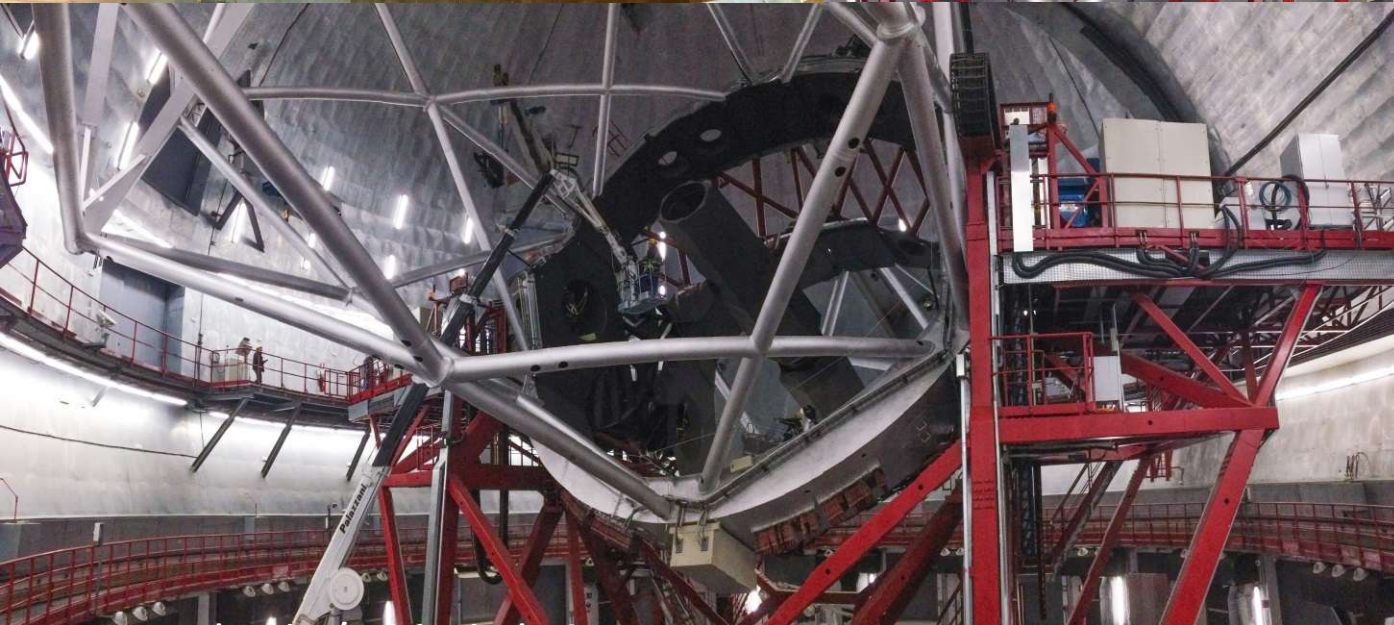
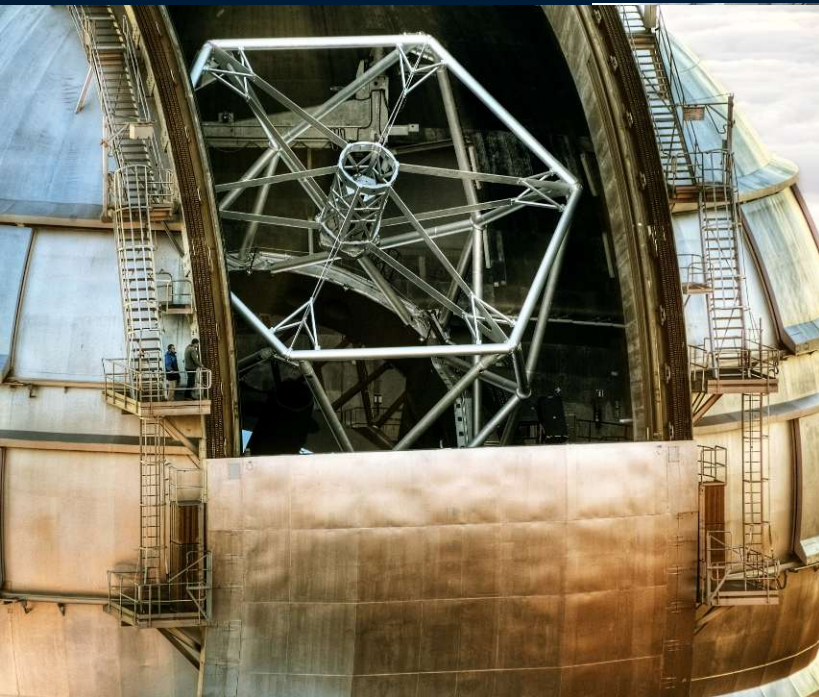


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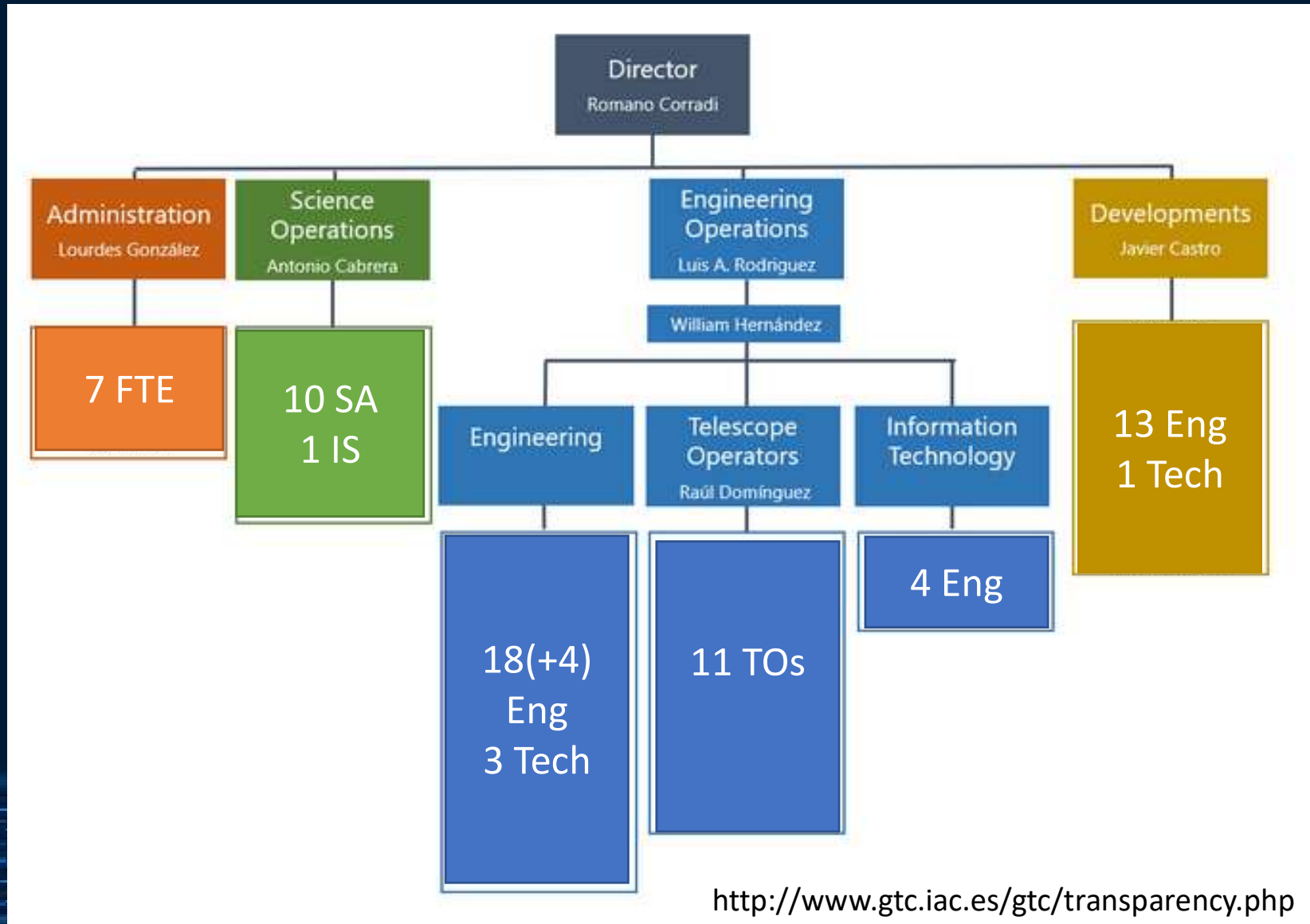
## *The organization*

- **GTC** telescope is an initiative of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC)
- Funded by Spain (90%), México (5%), and the University of Florida (2.5-5%).
- **GRANTECAN** is the company that built, operates, maintains and upgrades GTC.
- The GRANTECAN team consists of 80 support astronomers, engineers, technicians and administrative staff: 65 are based on La Palma, and 15 in Tenerife at the IAC headquarters



## The organization

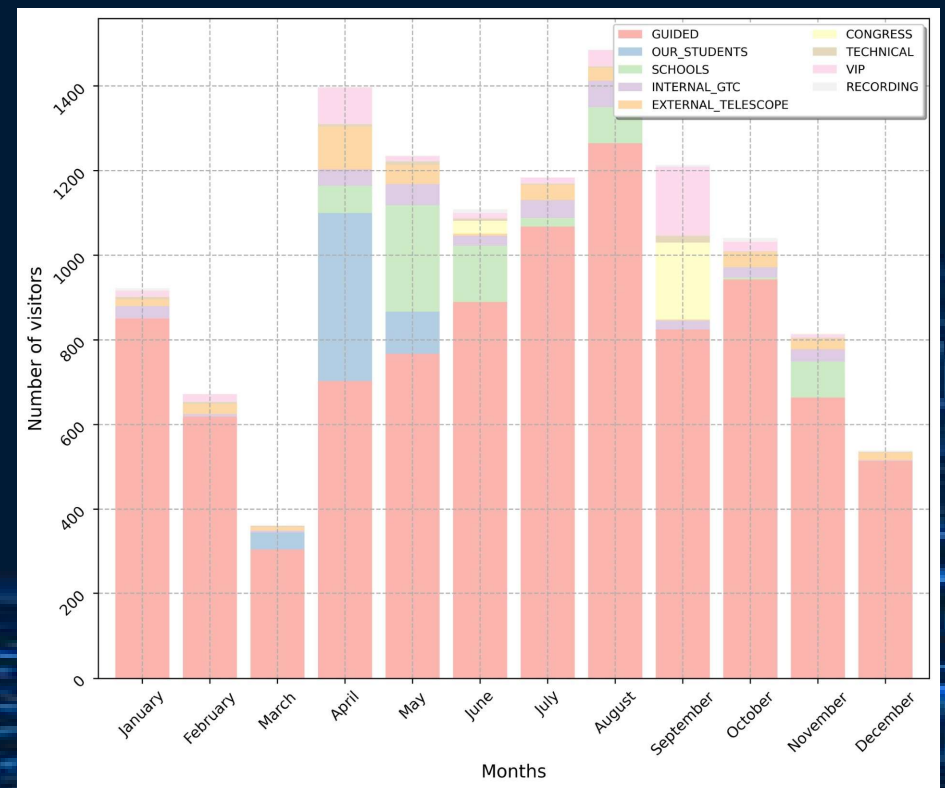
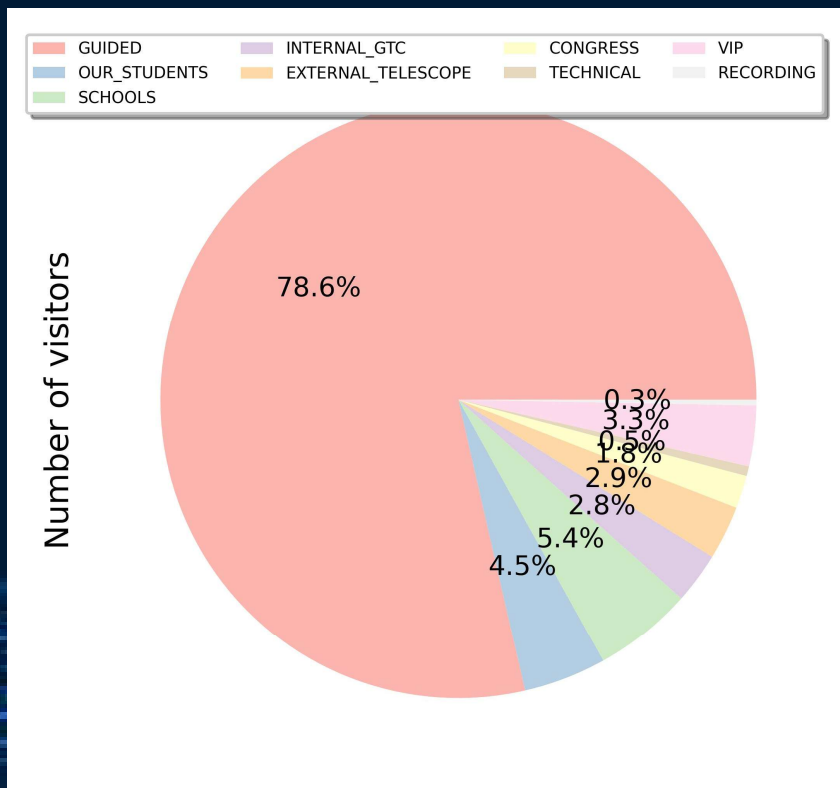
- High variety of profiles in the company (**only 10/80 are astronomers**).



<http://www.gtc.iac.es/gtc/transparency.php>

# GTC education activities

- GTC telescope attends **more than 12,000 visitors per year** (STARLIGHT guides).
- Since 2009, the educational program “**Nuestros Alumnos y el ORM**” is being developed at the Observatory to impulse the astronomy among the youngest generations. **All 14-15 year students in La Palma visit the ORM every year**, most of them the GTC.
- A GTC pilot program to **promote vocations in younger students (< 12 yr)** was successfully completed in 2025.



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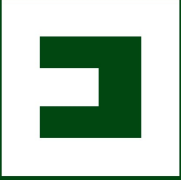




## GTC training activities


- GTC is strongly implicated in the formation of recent university graduates in engineering and physics in La Palma.
- Specific fundings from the local government of La Palma are involved since 2017 (FDCAN funds) to hire 2-3 people/yr.
- High employability in the astrophysical sector thanks to this program:

**77% graduates currently working in astronomy!.**



**FDCAN**

FONDO DE DESARROLLO DE CANARIAS




Gobierno de Canarias

### LÍNEA ESTRATÉGICA 3. APOYO A LA EMPLEABILIDAD

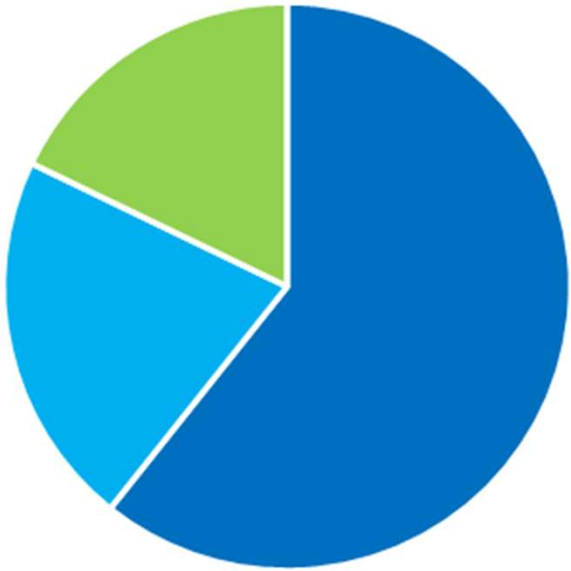
SUBVENCIÓN DIRECTA CONCEDIDA POR EL CABILDO INSULAR DE LA PALMA Y COFINANCIADA POR EL PROGRAMA FDCAN (2016-2025) AL GRAN TELESCOPIO DE CANARIAS, S.A. (GRANTECAN).

PROYECTO:  
"CONTRATACIÓN Y CAPACITACIÓN EN TRABAJOS TECNOLÓGICOS DE COLECTIVOS TITULADOS DE DIFÍCIL INSERCIÓN FDCAN 24".

Año de concesión: 2024



CABILDO LA PALMA



Category	Percentage
GTC	77%
IAC / TELESCOPES	18%
OTHERS	5%

- GTC
- IAC / TELESCOPES
- OTHERS

## GTC training activities

- Trained staff **cover all job profiles required in astronomy/engineering.**

