

# The TMT consortium waits for the construction permit in the Canary Islands

Those responsible for the telescope will choose between La Palma and Hawaii next November

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It had to have been in April, but until November it will not be known where the **Thirty Meter Telescope** (TMT) will be built, an infrastructure chosen by La Palma. Several of the heads of the international consortium that carries out this project visited the archipelago this week and met with representatives of the Astrophysical Institute of the Canary Islands (IAC) and public institutions with competence in this area.

Precisely at the end of this meeting, the director of the **IAC**, Rafael Rebolo, confirmed that at the moment the members attending by the Thirty Meters Telescope confirmed that it will be next **November** when they decide the final location.

"We have been informed that there is a delay in the decision to allow time for the competent administration to process the **request for a permit** to build on the island," said Rebolo, who said that "there is still interest in waiting for those permits."




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Those responsible for the TMT consortium during their visit to the Gran Telescopio Canarias. **Javier Licandro**

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to build on the island," said Rebolo, who said that "there is still interest in waiting for those permits." , so he understood that the door is still open so that the telescope finally recalls the La Palma.

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In this regard, he said that during the meeting discussed "the time scales and what is going to happen in the coming months," not only in reference to administrative procedures already started in the archipelago, but also in relation to the **process judicial proceedings** pending in Hawaii.

"They are waiting for the permits to build here on La Palma and meanwhile they will not make a decision about Hawaii either," insisted the director of the Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary Islands, who pointed out that the judicial difficulties in the that is immersed scientific infrastructure in the American island has also been dilated: "They are also waiting to resolve, favorably or not, the judicial issue they have open in Hawaii, which will probably be extended until November."

The meeting was also attended by the mayor of Puntagorda, Vicente Rodríguez; the president of the Cabildo, Anselmo Pestana; and the insular director of the State Administration, Miguel Ángel Morcuende, who expressed to the delegation the full support of their respective administrations for the installation of the TMT.

In particular, Morcuende said that "it is an absolutely important issue for us but above all for research excellence in Spain" and argued that the **central government** "has always bet that this infrastructure is in our country and particularly on the island of La Palma that welcomes exceptional circumstances to be able to install it".

Those responsible for the project, which intends to build the largest optical telescope in the Northern Hemisphere, met during this visit the facilities of the IAC in La Laguna as well as the observatories of Teide and Roque de los Muchachos, where they met, among other facilities, the Gran Telescopio Canarias ( GTC). The members of the consortium that participated in this visit are Professors Thomas Soifer (Caltech, California), Gregory Fahlman (National Research Council, Canada) and Masanori Iye (National Astronomical Observatory, Japan).