

Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum

1. Personal Information

- Name: Roberto Tamai
 - Date and Place of Birth: 24 March 1964, Naples (Italy)
 - Nationality: Italian
 - Marital Status: Married, two daughters (born 1997 and 2000)
 - Address: Flemingstrasse 107, 81925 Munich, Germany
 - Telephone:
 - Home: +49 (0)89 9595 8030
 - Office: +49 (0)89 3200 6367
 - Mobile: +49 (0)176 1300 6509
 - E-mail:
 - Private: robtamai@hotmail.com
 - Professional: rtamai@eso.org
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2. Education

- 1982 – Scientific Lyceum, Naples, Italy.
 - 1987 – *Laurea cum laude* in Mechanical Engineering, University of Naples “Federico II”.
 - Thesis: “Study by laser techniques of atomization and dispersion of liquid jets atomized by ultrasounds in swirling air flows” – application of Rayleigh and Thomson scattering and schlieren optical diagnostics with high spatial and temporal resolution.
 - 1987–1992 – Five-year fellowship (equivalent to Ph.D.) funded by CNR, partially completed at the University of California, Berkeley.
 - Research on advanced optical diagnostics applied to combustion processes to improve efficiency and reduce pollutant emissions.
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3. Professional Experience

Italian Aerospace Research Center (CIRA) – Capua, Italy

- 1992–1999
 - Project Engineer for the ESA Hypersonic Plasma Wind Tunnel “Scirocco” (70MW Arc Heater).
 - Technical supervisor of experimental activities in hypersonic flows.
 - From 1995, appointed Project Engineer for the full Plasma Wind Tunnel facility (€70M budget).
 - Managed commissioning phase and international collaborations.

European Southern Observatory (ESO)

- 1999–2001 – Mechanical Engineer, Cerro Paranal Observatory (Chile).
 - Assembly, Integration and Verification of the Very Large Telescope (VLT).
 - After one year, promoted to Head of the Mechanical Group.
- 2001–2005 – Head of Engineering Department, Paranal Observatory.
 - Managed engineering support for four 8.2m telescopes and 12 instruments.
 - Oversaw 70 staff (mechanical, electronics, software, optics).
 - Added responsibility for the VLT Interferometer and site facilities.
- 2005–2006 – Head of La Silla-Paranal Engineering Department (110 staff).
 - Key role in merging La Silla and Paranal Observatories.
- 2006–2008 – Deputy Director, La Silla-Paranal Observatory.
 - Supported Director in operational, managerial and engineering aspects for three ESO sites in Chile.
- 2008–2009 – Observatory System Engineer for the ELT (Extremely Large Telescope) and Deputy Head of Technology Division, ESO Headquarters, Garching (Germany).
- 2009–2014 – Head of Technology Division & Deputy Director of Engineering Directorate.
 - Led 80 staff in mechanics, optics, electronics, laser, control systems, cryogenics and vacuum.
 - Project Manager for La Silla 3MW Photovoltaic Plant and national grid extension to Paranal.
 - Led System Engineering of the ELT through Phase B and Delta Phase B.

- 2014–Present – Programme Manager, European Extremely Large Telescope (ESO-ELT).
 - Responsible for the construction phase of the world’s largest optical/IR telescope (first light expected 2029).
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4. Languages

- Italian (mother tongue)
 - English (fluent; British Council First Certificate, 1981)
 - Spanish (fluent; 8 years in Chile)
 - German (intermediate; Goethe Institut studies, practice in Munich)
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5. Other Activities and Interests

- Sports: fencing, water polo, tennis, sailing, paragliding, skiing.
- Hobbies: photography, DIY, piano, motorbikes.
- Holds (inactive) single-engine VFR pilot license.
- Frequent international travel for work and leisure.