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Resumen:

Calar Alto, as the largest observatory in continental Europe, offers a complete suite of optical and NIR instruments shared by five telescopes, standing on a 2200-m mountain overlooking the unique Tabernas desert (Almeria, Spain). We present an overview of the site characteristics and facilities available, including: - The 0.5-m telescope (CAB-INTA property); - The refurbished 0.8-m Schmidt telescope, used remotely by the European Spatial Agency to search for NEOs; - PANIC, the wide-field NIR camera on the 2.2-m telescope; - CARMENES, the high-resolution spectrograph (VIS and NIR arms) on the 3.5-m telescope, searching for Earth-like planets around nearby M dwarves (600+ GTO nights, survey started in January 2016). In addition to these and other imagers/spectrographs (e.g. the large PMAS IFU) directly available to the Spanish and German astronomers, the latest developments (visitor and test instruments, opening to the international community on a pay basis, and astrotourism) insure the continuity of the Spanish-German Astronomical Center in Calar Alto for the coming years.