EChO targets from the Next Generation Transit Survey (NGTS)

Peter J. Wheatley, on behalf of the NGTS consortium

The Next Generation Transit Survey (NGTS) is a new ground-based sky survey designed to find transiting Neptunes and super-Earths. By covering at least sixteen times the sky area of Kepler we will find small planets around stars that are sufficiently bright for atmospheric characterisation with EChO and other facilities such as JWST and the E-ELT. The bright host stars will also allow radial velocity confirmation and mass determination, providing the first statistical sample of super-Earth densities and bulk compositions. I will describe the NGTS facility, which is being constructed at the ESO Paranal observatory during 2013, and present data from our prototype instruments as well as the results of quantitative simulations of our planet catch. I will show how NGTS Neptunes and Super-Earths will become valuable targets for atmospheric characterisation with EChO.