



Credit: CERN - ALMA (ESO/NRAO)



Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array

Depending on what part of the Universe you want to observe, the ALMA antennas —which weight more than 100 tons each— can be moved to different positions by transporters. Otto and Lore, as the transporters are called, were built solely for this purpose. They travel at 12 kilometers per hour (and even slower when carrying antennas), have 28 wheels each and a system that maintains antenna stability in the event of earthquakes. It takes a lot of power to move that much weight, so each vehicle comes equipped with two approximately 700-HP (500 kW) diesel engines. They also carry power generators to maintain the cold (cryogenic) systems needed to ensure that the antennas continue functioning during transport.