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NIRPS on track to join HARPS on the ESO 3.6-m

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The Near-InfraRed Planet Searcher (NIRPS) is a new ultra-stable near-infrared (YJH) spectrograph that will be installed on ESO 3.6-m Telescope in La Silla, Chile in beginning 2020. Covering YJH bands with a spectral resolution of 100'000, NIRPS is part of a new generation of adaptive optics fiber-fed spectrographs. NIRPS will use a 0.4-arcsecond multi-mode fiber, half that required for a seeing-limited instrument, allowing a spectrograph design that is half as big as that of HARPS, while meeting the requirements for high throughput and high spectral resolution. A 0.9-arcsecond fiber will be used for fainter targets and degraded seeing conditions. NIRPS is designed to achieve a precision of 1 m.s⁻¹ and will be operated simultaneously with HARPS. Here we describe the NIRPS main technical characteristics and the first tests of the Cassegrain Adapter made in lab with the AO system.

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