

Subject: [allemploy] FYI: 4 July BIWEEKLY CALENDAR OF THE ALMA PROJECT at NRAO
From: Al Wootten <awootten@nrao.edu>
Date: 7/6/2005, 5:07 PM
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BIWEEKLY CALENDAR OF THE ALMA PROJECT at NRAO
July 4, 2005 -- July 17, 2005

***** THIS FORTNIGHT*****

ALMA Antenna Procurement

At the June 2005 meeting in den Haag, the Netherlands, the ALMA Board adopted a resolution:

"The ALMA Board concurs with the ALMA Director's recommendation that the North American Executive proceed with the issuance of a contract to procure its share of the ALMA antennas. The Board recognizes that authority to execute a contract is subject to NSF approval."

Late last week, the National Science Foundation gave the necessary approval for the AUI/NRAO to proceed with negotiating a contract to procure ALMA antennas. Negotiations have already been under way this past week. The goal is to sign a contract before the middle of July.

This is tremendous news and will be remembered as a pivotal point in the history of the ALMA project. Now the hard work can really begin!

Fred K. Y. Lo
Adrian Russell

July 1, 2005

Effective July 5th, Stefan Michalski joined the NRAO Program Office, filling the role of Scheduler/Planner assigned to the ALMA Project. Stefan's email address is smichalski@nrao.edu and he is using Richard Simon's office on a temporary basis; the telephone number there is 434-296-0346.

The newly established Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science has sent its FY 2006 funding bill, H.R. 2862, to the floor. The Subcommittee recommends an increase in the National Science Foundation budget of 1.1% (recall that the House bill provides an increase of 3.1%). For Research and Related Activities The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$4,345,213,000. The recommendation is \$124,657,000 above the fiscal year 2005 funding level and \$11,713,000 above the budget request.

For details, please see <http://tinyurl.com/942u7>
Language of interest:

"The Committee is concerned that NSF continues to underfund operations for radio astronomy. The operations, maintenance, and development of new instrumentation at the Very Large Array, the Very Long Baseline Array, and the Green Bank Telescope allows these world-class facilities to provide valuable research into the origins of the universe. The Committee recommends \$51,400,000 for the operations of the National Radio Astronomy Observatories."

"The Committee recommends \$49,240,000 for the Atacama Large Millimeter Array [ALMA] [same as House bill].

The AUI/NRAO FY 2005 ALMA Program Plan for ALMA construction was approved by NSF following Congressional approval of NSF's FY2005 operating plan.

Please welcome Hans Rykaczewski as the new European ALMA Project Manager and Head of the ALMA Division.

Mr. Hans Rykaczewski comes to ESO from the Eidgenoessische Technische Hochschule (ETH) Zurich where he was holding the position of resource planning manager since 1989 and has recently worked on large experiments for the Large Hadron Collider at CERN.

Mr. Rykaczewski takes up his position July 1st.

Past issues of this Calendar may be viewed at
<http://www.cv.nrao.edu/~awootten/mmaimcal/ALMACalendars.html>

See also the ALMA Calendar overview at:
<https://wikio.nrao.edu/bin/view/ALMA/AlmaCalendar>

General Happenings

Santiago: Cost Estimate sheets discussed IPT by IPT in rebaselining effort.

OSF: ALMA Camp completed to 30 beds; contractor camp construction begun. First Aid Service commenced. Road construction above 28km to begin soon. 27 persons are working on the site.

AOS: In preparation for AOS technical building construction, new containers have been delivered near the site characterization containers; site characterization equipment was moved to these new quarters.

Tucson: Development of Line Length corrector will continue in Tucson, but move to Charlottesville by August.
Conway finalized the positions of the pads covering configurations out to 4km maximum baseline. As it stands this design has positions for 149 pads of which 11 would only be built when the array reaches 60-64 antennas. A total of 19 moves of 4 antennas are needed for ALMA to grow from the most compact array to the 4km array. Mark Holdaway is converging on a design for the largest array, with an additional 35 pads populated with an additional 9 moves of 4 antennas.

AOC: A significant e2e test of the IF was accomplished June 18. Broadband noise plus a CW signal were injected at the input to the BE IF processor, downconverted using the 2nd LO, fed to both polarizations inputs of the digitizer, formatted as three 10 Gb/s optical signals, multiplexed and transmitted on a single 8km fiber, optically demuxed and detected, deformatted as 64 125 Mb/s signals, passed to the prototype correlator, auto-correlated and the spectrum presented via the correlator test GUI. This test used three optical channels and all system components between BE input and COMP software output display. A future step will be to do this x4 and use all 12 optical channels.

Central LO delivered to Socorro from Tucson. Completion of test and characterization, and future upgrades to the laser synthesizer modules, will take place in Socorro.

Review of 2 GHz LO design planned for 28 July in Socorro. Japan sending two representatives.

Review of cable wrap design proposal planned for 30 July 10 am MDT. (Socorro) Correlator/Archive integration tests in Socorro;

Draft report on Offline (AIPS++) test circulated to testers for final comment.

NTC: Band 4 (2mm), 8 (.61 mm) PDRs reported successful (Mitaka). FE Delta PDR this week (ESO). Band 6 (1.3mm) prototype shipped to IRAM for testing.

Efforts to set up Photonics Lab in Charlottesville have commenced.

DAILY CALENDAR (Times EDT) see
<https://wikio.nrao.edu/bin/view/ALMA/AlmaCalendar>

Mon 4 July
All Day: NRAO Holiday. This only became a national holiday in 1941.

Tue 5
10:30 AM-11:30 AM: JAO IPT Telecon
4:00 PM-5:00PM: NAScienceIPT teleconference (open to all interested parties) (434)296-7082

Agenda: <https://wikio.nrao.edu/bin/view/ALMA/10May05A>
Archive: <http://www.cv.nrao.edu/~awootten/mmaimcal/>

Wed 6
All Day: Front End Delta-PDR, Garching
2:00PM- 3:00PM: NAASC Meeting

Thu 7
All Day: Front End Delta-PDR, Garching
9:30 AM-11:00 AM: Management IPT Teleconference

Fri 8
Sat 9

Sun 10
Mon July 11 Celebrate
Tue July 12

10:30 AM-11:30 AM: JAO IPT Telecon
10:30 AM-11:30AM: ALMA ScienceIPT teleconference
Agenda: <https://wikio.nrao.edu/bin/view/ALMA/10May05A>
Archive: <http://www.cv.nrao.edu/~awootten/mmaimcal/>

Wed 13
11:00 AM-11:59 AM: ASAC Telecon

Thu 14
9:30 AM-11:00 AM: Management IPT Teleconference (with Japan)

Fri 15
Sat 16

Sun 17
***** UPCOMING EVENTS *****

ALMA Calendar--<https://wikio.nrao.edu/bin/view/ALMA/AlmaCalendar>

- * Jul 3-4 -- Deep Impact probe impact of comet Temple 1.
- * Jul 6-7 -- Front End IPT delta PDR, Garching
- * Jul 11 -- Celebrate
- * Jul 26-27 -- System Requirements Review, Charlottesville
- * Sep 14 -- ESAC Meeting, Garching
- * Sep 22-23 -- ACA System Review, Santiago
- * Sep 24-30 -- JAO/IPT Meeting, OSF
- * Sep 29-30 -- ESO Committee of Council
- * Oct 1-2 -- ASAC Meeting, Santiago
- * Oct 6 -- Rolling Stones come to Scott Stadium, Charlottesville
- * Nov 8-9 -- ESO Finance Committee
- * Dec 7-8 -- ESO Council Regular Meeting

***** TECHNICAL NEWS *****

*****ALSO OF INTEREST*****

A call for new SMA proposals for the observing period NOV 1, 2005 thru APR 30, 2006 will be issued soon. The proposal deadline is expected to be SEP 12, 2005. The announcement will invite proposals for "legacy programs."

Workshop on Submillimeter Astronomy sponsored by SAO (the Power Point presentation of most talks will be available on this site soon)

<http://cfa-www.harvard.edu/smast05>

Please send information for upcoming calendars by Friday evening of the preceding biweekly period to Jennifer Neighbours or Al Wootten via e-mail (jneighbo@nrao.edu or awootten@nrao.edu).

The calendar will be issued between late Friday and sometime on Monday by e-mail to all NRAO scientific staff members and anyone else interested. A specific mailing list, alma-info, has been created for anyone wishing to receive it. Past issues are available at <http://www.cv.nrao.edu/~awootten/mmailcal/ALMACalendars.html>

Allemploy mailing list

Allemploy@listmgr.cv.nrao.edu

<http://listmgr.cv.nrao.edu/mailman/listinfo/allemploy>