

ALMA Executive Committee

Teleconference 22 April 1999

(R. Brown reporting)

Participants: Brown, Kurz, Napier

Issues Discussed:

1. Plan to coordinate answers to technical questions at the U.S. and European pre-proposal meetings with antenna vendors.

Napier informed us that the US pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for May 18. Kurz noted that the European meeting is May 26. Torben Andersen will attend the US meeting and Napier will attend the European meeting. The presence of Andersen and Napier at both meetings means that those two people can discuss in real-time the answer to *simple* questions posed by the contractors at both meetings. Difficult or involved questions will be answered in writing and this will be done in any case by joint US-European teams so the issue of a *coordinated* answer does not arise.

2. Plan for the transition from the MMA web site to an ALMA website.

This issue involves both a name change for the MMA site, and it involves agreement on a workable procedure to mirror the site in Europe. Peter Shaver has been discussing the details of possible options with the ESO webmaster. This issue is deferred for further discussion until Stephane can participate.

3. Real-Time operating system decision and implications.

Kurz understood as a result of the April 12 computing meeting in Europe that there was agreement with the plan put forward by Glendenning for the test interferometer but that the decision of the RTOS for ALMA would be delayed until such time that the US and European Division Heads for computing could jointly consider the issue and make a recommendation. The competitors are VxWorks and Linux. This topic to be discussed again when Stephane is present.

4. Suggested members for a joint science advisory committee

Discussion deferred.

5. Plan to share expenses for work done in Chile.

In addition to maintenance of the testing equipment on site in Chile, there is also a need to expend funds (a) to establish exploratory mining claims on the entire science preserve

as recommended by both the ESO and AUI lawyers in Santiago; and (b) to provide estimates of the 'best' and 'worst' soil conditions on site that can be used by the antenna vendors in doing their foundation designs. Brown indicated that an equitable way to share the expense of the mining claims had been negotiated between AUI (Hardy) and ESO (Hofstadt). There is some possibility, but by no means a certainty, that the Japanese may be willing to help share this expense. The soil testing is underway with a university-based consultant that the local (Calama) construction firm Ocegatel engaged for this purpose. The consultant will provide us with a report with his professional estimates of the soil conditions. The approximately \$12k cost of this service will be paid by ESO-Santiago; Kurz to confirm that this arrangement is in place.

6. Other News

Kurz noted that Sweden, through the Swedish Research Council, is expressing interest in being a signatory to the MOU by making contributions to the ALMA Phase 1 in addition to those made by virtue of Swedish membership in ESO. This could include the in-kind contributions of the antenna group at Onsala and the University of Lund as well as a cash contribution. There is also an inquiry being made by Spain for Spanish participation in the project; the Yebes group is interested in fabricating LNAs for the IF.

The June 10 face2face meeting of the AEC in Washington, DC is definitely on. All of us will be able to attend. The plan now is for us to meet immediately after the NSF-ENT meeting that day.

Next Meeting:

Agenda Topics:

1. ALMA Website Plan
2. RTOS decision and implications
3. European Division Heads and Project Organization
4. Joint science advisory committee members and organization
5. Steps to the joint Phase 1 scope of work
6. Others?