



NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

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30 August 2004

Mr. Eric Zammit
ALMA European Consortium
c/o Alcatel Space
Avenue J-F Champollion 26
31037 Toulouse Cedex 1
FRANCE

Dear Mr. Zammit:

Associated Universities, Inc. (AUI) received multiple proposals, on time and in order, in response to its Request for Proposal No. 031215.1 (RFP), dated December 17, 2003, for the design, manufacture, transport and integration on-site in Chile of 32 ALMA antennas.

Over the past several months, AUI, in close consultation with our partner, the European Southern Observatory (ESO), has reviewed and analyzed the proposals from the ALMA European Consortium (AEC) as well as its competitors. The proposals were carefully evaluated by AUI in accordance with the criteria required in our RFP.

I am writing to inform you that, based on the outcome of the proposal evaluation process, AUI currently is pursuing discussions with another proposer who was deemed responsive and responsible, and overall rated higher than AEC taking into account technical, managerial and price criteria. The intent of our discussions is to negotiate a contractual agreement with them for the supply of the North American ALMA antennas. If those negotiations fail, AUI may, under its rules of procurement, re-initiate contact with AEC. In the event that becomes necessary, I will contact you.

AUI extends its thanks to all members of the AEC for their interest in ALMA and your participation in this procurement.

Very truly yours,

William H. Porter
Business Manager