

Subject: Informal Minutes--Draft for comments
Date: Thu, 4 May 2000 12:18:57 -0400 (EDT)
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DRAFT

Ad hoc ACC Committee on
ALMA Organization in Chile

Informal Minutes of the 3 May 2000 Teleconference

R. L. Brown

I. Committee Goals: The committee agreed that its goals are:

1. To recommend options for the definition of a clear way forward in negotiations with the Chileans, including negotiations on access to the site and the legal personality of ALMA in Chile;
2. To recognize in those options that Japan will eventually become a partner in the Project.

II. The committee discussed options that were recognized at this point. They include:

1. Bi-lateral options:
 - ESO-Chile (ESO representing--serving as the fiduciary agent for--the Project in Chile).
 - AUI-Chile (AUI representing--serving as the fiduciary agent for--the Project in Chile).
2. Trilateral options:
 - (ESO+AUI)-Chile

In the case of the bi-lateral option with AUI as the lead organization Ian noted that the UK, for example, would have to reach agreement with NSF (NSF would only later assign their responsibility to AUI in the same manner as was done with NSF and AURA for the Gemini Project).

III. Two issues were identified requiring comment by the NSF:

1. What is the NSF attitude toward participation in an international treaty organization for ALMA?
2. What is the NSF attitude toward the possibility of an ESO-led Project in Chile?

IV. Construction Phase

1. The lack of parity between the partners (ESO and NSF) in either of the bilateral options in the construction phase in Chile would need to be addressed by some mechanism such as

- assigning NSF construction responsibility and ESO operations responsibility;
2. The entity to represent NSF and ESO should be firmly in place prior to construction so that addition of the Japanese contributions could be done through an organizational structure firmly in place.

V. Process, Action Items.

We will explore, without prejudice, the following:

1. Issues surrounding an ESO-led, bilateral option, as a template for looking at the general case for all other bi-lateral options (Koenig to report to the committee);
2. Issues surrounding the tri-lateral option, including definition of possibilities for the AUI+ESO partnership in Chile (Brown to report to the committee);
3. Ideas to achieve parity in the class of bi-lateral options, including ideas for dividing the construction and operations tasks (Dickman to report to the committee);
4. A brief oral report on the committee teleconference meeting will be made to the ACC at their May 10 teleconference (Corbett to report).

NEXT MEETING

Teleconference
Thursday May 18
1800 CET (1700 UK, 1200 EDT)
Phone number to be distributed