

**Subject:** [allemploy] FYI: 8 May 2006 BIWEEKLY CALENDAR OF THE ALMA PROJECT at NRAO  
**From:** Al Wootten <awootten@nrao.edu>  
**Date:** 5/19/2006, 12:07 PM  
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BIWEEKLY CALENDAR OF THE ALMA PROJECT at NRAO  
8 May 2006 - 22 May 2006

\*\*\*\*\* THIS FORTNIGHT\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to announce that Chris Carilli has been appointed as the Head of the ALMA Science Center (NAASC) effective May 1, 2006. Chris will initially take up the role from Socorro before relocating to Charlottesville later this year. Chris is no stranger to ALMA being a member of both the ASAC and ANASAC. This is a very formative time for the North American ALMA Science Center and we look forward to Chris' involvement and leadership.

While Chris is moving from Socorro and his long affiliation with the VLA and VLBA, his move illustrates the important principle of One Observatory by rotating our staff to where he or she is needed the most. In addition, the One Observatory goal is not for the NA ALMA Science Center to function in isolation. There will be very close collaboration and coordination and active exchanges of personnel and ideas with the Science Centers NRAO is planning to establish for EVLA/VLBA and the GBT. It is important to note that Science Centers do not refer to buildings. They refer to the necessary activities provided and organized by NRAO to the astronomy community to make sure all the NRAO telescopes are optimally used for science.

Fred K. Y. Lo and Adrian Russell

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I am pleased to inform you that the National Science Board today approved our request for additional funding for ALMA. This action provides the NSF Director with spending authority that covers the revised baseline as approved by the ALMA Board. It is the first step in acquiring the needed funds, with discussions with the Administration and the Congress yet to come.

This approval is a recognition of the transformational nature of the science ALMA will enable and the importance of maintaining the power of the instrument. The high quality of the people involved with the project and the significant efforts by the project to bring cost and schedule under control, as described in the ALMA Board review and the North American review, were key factors in obtaining the approval, as was the effort the ALMA Board has made to ensure its ability to act in a timely way, while holding the project accountable to it.

We will keep you informed as the process of obtaining the funds continues.

Judy Sunley  
Division of Physics, Math and Astronomy,  
NSF

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About one hundred young astronomers and astrochemists met at Fulgso, Denmark near the University of Aarhus for a meeting on Complex Molecules in Space: Present status and prospects with ALMA, organised by David Field. This was followed by a one day meeting of the EU 'Molecular Universe' consortium.

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The contract for construction of the Operations Support Facility (OSF) was approved this week by the ESO Finance Committee.  
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Past issues of this Calendar may be viewed at  
<http://www.cv.nrao.edu/~awootten/mmailcal/ALMACalendars.html>

See also the JAO ALMA Calendar overview at:

[http://www.alma.cl/alma\\_project](http://www.alma.cl/alma_project)

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General Happenings

OSF (Ops Support Facility, 9600ft altitude): Approximately 106 people are working on the ALMA site.

Santiago: Interviews for the position of Human Resource Manager continue. Pedro Ramirez hired for JAO Assembly, Integration, Verification (AIV) team. Santiago IT Manager hired: Christian Saldias, beginning in June.

AOS (Array Ops Site, 16000ft altitude): Bids in for Engineering design firm for high-site roads.

AOC: The LO reference design is being changed to relay 125 MHz to the antenna instead of 25 MHz. The Central Variable Reference procurement will be reviewed on May 18 before procuring a prototype for evaluation.

ATF (ALMA Test Facility, VLA site): AEM metrology work ongoing at ATF.

NTC: Band 9 LO problems appear resolved. There was a highly successful test of the X9 LO for Band 9 at SRON April 17-26; it appears all performance criteria are met, and the FE IPT has concluded that this solution is chosen; negotiations for pre-production quantities of the X9 multipliers are underway.

A production readiness review for the Stratix II Tunable Filter Bank (TFB) card was held in Bordeaux April 10-11. We are ready to proceed with production of this version of the TFB.

Construction of correlator quadrant #2 continued and the racks are expected to be complete and ready for card installation by mid-June.

Elsewhere: The Band 7 (0.87 mm) cartridge CDR is planned to take between 6th and 14th July \u201906.

FE Water Vapor Radiometer: Meetings were held with CA and OSO on the close out of the current WVR R&D work package. This activity will be completed, largely dependent on availability of staff at CA, by July \u201906.  
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DAILY CALENDAR (Times EDT ) see

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

Mon 8 May Complex Molecules in Space: Present status and prospects with ALMA 8th thru 11th May 2006, Fuglsocentret, Denmark

Tue 9 May Complex Molecules in Space: Present status and prospects with ALMA 8th thru 11th May 2006, Fuglsocentret, Denmark

10:30 AM-11:30 AM: JAO IPT Telecon

Wed 10 May  
Complex Molecules in Space: Present status and prospects with ALMA 8th thru 11th May 2006, Fuglsocentret, Denmark

11:00 AM: SSR Telecon

Thu 11 May Full Moon; Big Saints Day (Holiday) Denmark  
Molecular Universe meeting, Fuglsocentret, Denmark

11:00 am: Calibration Group Telecon

Fri 12 May

Sat 13 May

Sun 14 May

Mon 15 May Registration Deadline, IAU XXVI General Assy  
Events of ALMA interest compiled at:

<http://www.cv.nrao.edu/~awootten/mmaimcal/IAUALMA.txt>

All Day: Operations meeting, Charlottesville

Tue 16 May

All Day: Operations meeting, Charlottesville

10:30 AM-11:30 AM: JAO IPT Telecon

Wed 17 May

10:30 AM EDT: Science IPT Telecon

Thu 18 May

NRAO Users Committee, Socorro

Fri 19 May

NRAO Users Committee, Socorro

Sat 20 May

Cassini encounter with Titan

Sun 21 May

Mon 22 May

\*\*\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\*\*\*

May 25	1330UT	ALMA Board Telecon	
June 2-8	all day	CASCA/AAS meeting	Calgary, CA
June 7	1730	ALMA Booth	Capitol Hill, DC
June 13-14	all day	ALMA Board Meeting	Santiago
June 14	all day	ALMA Master Laser CDR	CV
Jun 19-20	all day	AIVCSV Meeting	Santiago
Aug 1		Move of PSI to ATF	
Sept 22-23	evening	Dave Matthews Band	CV JPJ Arena opening
November 9-10	all day	ALMA Board Meeting	Madrid TBD
Nov 13-16	all day	Science with ALMA: a new era for Astrophysics	Madrid

\*\*\*\*\* TECHNICAL NEWS \*\*\*\*\*

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

The official dedication of the Combined Array for Research in Millimeter-Wave Astronomy (CARMA) facility was held Friday, 2006 May 5, at Cedar Flat in the Inyo Mountains near Bishop. Please see:

[http://pr.caltech.edu/media/Press\\_Releases/PR12844.html](http://pr.caltech.edu/media/Press_Releases/PR12844.html)

The first panel was mounted on the innermost ring of the Large Millimeter Telescope, now under erection at its site of Volcán Sierra Negra in Mexico on 2006 May 3.

The Caltech Submillimeter Observatory (CSO) encourages observing participation by astronomers from both U.S. and non-U.S. institutions. Lodging, subsistence and transportation on the mountain are provided free by the CSO, for two observers per program. A limited amount of travel money may also be available.

Proposals for observing time should include the CSO cover form (please use the latest version available at

<http://www.submm.caltech.edu/cso/cso-call.html> . The proposals will be reviewed by an external peer group committee and should be sent by 31 May for the observing period 1 September through 31 January.

2nd pan-ALMA Conference : 2nd Announcement

Dear Colleague,

The 2nd pan-ALMA conference on "Science with ALMA: a new era for Astrophysics" will be held 13-16 November 2006 in Madrid, Spain. The venue will be the campus of the CSIC (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas), in the centre of town.

Information on the 2nd pan-ALMA meeting is available via

<http://www.oan.es/alma2006/> (final slash is mandatory)

Anne Dutrey informs us of a CNRS post-doctoral position at the Observatory of Bordeaux. The position is opened for two years and will start on September 2006 at the Observatory of Bordeaux. The application deadline is June 2006.

The position is dedicated to the modelling of chemistry in proto-planetary disks in order to interpret observational data obtained with the IRAM array.

Interested people can read the dedicated CNRS web page

[http://www.k-projects.com/cnrs\\_postdocs/public/departement\\_details.php?IdDpt=9&Dep=SDU&NumOffre=2&Langue=en](http://www.k-projects.com/cnrs_postdocs/public/departement_details.php?IdDpt=9&Dep=SDU&NumOffre=2&Langue=en)

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Please send information for upcoming calendars by Friday evening of the preceding biweekly period to Jennifer Neighbours or Al Wootten via e-mail (jneighbo at nrao.edu or awootten at 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/ALMCalendars.html><

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Allemploy mailing list

[Allemploy@listmgr.cv.nrao.edu](mailto:Allemploy@listmgr.cv.nrao.edu)

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