

RESOLUTION

Council,

Reaffirming the strategic importance of ALMA, and its determination to ensure the scientific success of ALMA for European astronomy and its commitment to ALMA in collaboration with its partners in North America and Japan,

recognizing the importance of maintaining ESO's position at the forefront of world astronomy,

and noting

that ESO is requesting approval to award a contract for the supply of the production ALMA antennas,

the information on ALMA re-baselining provided in ESO/Cou-1043 conf.,

the long term financial simulations given in ESO/Cou-1044 conf.,

that the ALMA Board will recommend a revised cost-to-completion for the bilateral ALMA project which will be put to Council for approval at its meeting in December 2005,

reaffirms

its commitment to proceed with ALMA, despite the considerable financial burden it presents to the organization, while recognizing that accommodating the cost increase will present challenges to ESO in maintaining its capability to conceive and lead important future projects,

decides

that the estimated increase given in Cou-1044 conf. in the cost to completion of the ESO share of the bilateral ALMA project is affordable and compatible with ESO's strategic priorities,

and, having considered the legal advice provided to the ESO Executive,

requests

the Finance Committee to proceed to decide on the proposal to award a contract for the production of the ESO ALMA antennas.