Subject: [allemploy] FYI: 24 April 2006 BIWEEKLY CALENDAR OF THE ALMA PROJECT at NRAO
From: Al Wootten <awootten@nrao.edu>
Date: 4/25/2006, 2:30 PM
To: anasac@nrao.edu, allemploy@nrao.edu, alma-info@nrao.edu, almasci@nrao.edu

BIWEEKLY CALENDAR OF THE ALMA PROJECT at NRAO
24 April 2006 - 8 May 2006

********** THIS FORTNIGHT**********
Pursuant to Article 12.9 of the ALMA Agreement, Board Members have officially designated Annelia Sargent as ALMA Board Chairperson effective immediately and expiring at the end of the current term, December 31, 2006.

Near 11:20 hours on 2006 April 18 the Láscar volcano erupted, generating a column of smoke of about 3,000 meters (10,000 feet) in height. The eruption was observed from hundreds of kilometers the distance and the ash-gray column throws particular material and ash. Eruptions occurred near noon on the two subsequent days. On 20 April the ash plume passed over the ALMA site though no damage was reported. Photos are collected at:
https://wikio.nrao.edu/bin/view/ALMA/LascarStirs06

Past issues of this Calendar may be viewed at
http://www.cv.nrao.edu/~awootten/mmaimcal/ALMACalendars.html
See also the JAO ALMA Calendar overview at:
http://www.alma.cl/alma_project

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General Happenings
OSF (Ops Support Facility, 9600ft altitude): Approximately 64 people are working on the ALMA site.

Santiago: Early discussions on Santiago ALMA Offices at Vitacura continue.

AOS (Array Ops Site, 16000ft altitude): Lascar erupted; see above. The AOS Technical Building Foundation and Shell construction is substantially complete.
Picture: http://www.cv.nrao.edu/~awootten/mmaimcal/AOSTB06Ap18.jpg

TUC: Emerson chaired Computing System Requirements Review, held via multicon. Emerson also chaired Holography Requirements Review.

AOC: PSI testing has successfully spectrally cross-correlated a common signal in the lab. The test involved sending the same analogue noise signal into two different digitizers and through different channels of the same antenna rack, into the correlator and producing a cross-spectrum. In a followup test to occur shortly the same will be done using two different antenna racks. The final report of the 4th offline user test, of CASA - Common Astronomy Software Applications - is available at: http://tinyurl.com/syqfc . CASA is a python binding of the C++ functionality that was in AIPS++. This initial version of CASA had pythony commands that had a one-to-one correspondence with AIPS++ Glish commands.

ATF (ALMA Test Facility, VLA site): Optical Pointing Test report available. Optical Pointing Test report available at http://tinyurl.com/zt6fe This test identified 13 top priority items that needed to be addressed. A user test 'spot check' of the ALMA integrated software to support optical pointing was completed 21 April. See http://tinyurl.com/lmwx7 for a short report on this 2nd user test.

AEM personnel are on the AEC antenna working on metrology and drive systems.

NTC: Finished measuring all 8 Band 3 OMTs
final design review before procuring the production Master Laser and
   Laser Synthesizer is scheduled tentatively for Charlottesville on 13 June.

NAASC (North American ALMA Science Center: Gallery of ALMA photos at:
http://www.alma.nrao.edu/almanews/almagallery/index.html
Mangum engaged in further discussion of calibration and source catalogue
issues with Ed Fomalont and John Benson. ALMA Science IPT telecon was
 held.
An internal review of the NAASC Staffing plan was held on April 11th.
Panel members included representatives from GBT Ops, NM Ops, e2e, EVLA,
Fiscal, HR, the Directors Office, and NRC. Overall the response was
positive. Discussions were held on April 12 with Greg Fahlman, Peter
Dewdney & James Di Francesco about the role of Canada in NA ALMA
operations. They will comment on the NAASC Staffing plan and get back to
us with concrete suggestions. Presentations on the NAASC were made to
the Visiting Committee on April 18 and to NSF on April 24. An ANASAC
telecon will be held Friday April 28th, and the NAASC Organizational
Meeting on Wednesday May 3rd (b'day of HAW).
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DAILY CALENDAR (Times EDT) see
https://wikio.nrao.edu/bin/view/ALMA/AlmaCalendar
 Mon 24 Apr System Requirements Review Meeting, Garching. ACA focus
 Tue 25 Apr System Requirements Review Meeting, Garching. ACA focus
10:30 AM-11:30 AM: JAO IPT Telecon
4:00 PM-5:00 PM: NAScienceIPT teleconference (open to all interested
                                parties) (434)296-7082
 Wed 26 Apr
 6:02 AM: Launch of CloudSat/CALIPSO is planned for 26 April 2006
                (third attempt) at 3:02 AM PDT (1002 UTC). Live coverage on
                NASA TV begins at 1:00 AM PDT.
13:15 EDT: ALMA NA Telecaucus
 Thu 27 Apr New Moon
 9:30 AM: ALMA Board Telecon
11:30 AM-12:30 PM: Management IPT Telecon
 Fri 28 Apr
14:00 EDT: ANASAC Telecon
 Sat 29 Apr
 Sun 30 Apr
 Mon   1 May Holiday in Chile, Europe
 Tue   2 May
10:30 AM-11:30 AM: JAO IPT Telecon
 Wed   3 May
11:00 AM EDT: ASAC Telecon
13:00 EDT: NAASC Telecon
 Thu   4 May
 Fri   5 May
 Sat   6 May
 Sun   7 May
 Mon   8 May Complex Molecules in Space: Present status and prospects with
               ALMA 8th thru 11th May 2006, Fuglsøcentret, Denmark
             EVLA Advisory Committee, Socorro
 Mon 15 May Registration Deadline, IAU XXVI General Assy
             Events of ALMA interest compiled at:
              http://www.cv.nrao.edu/~awootten/mmaimcal/IAUALMA.txt
********** UPCOMING EVENTS **********
 April 24-25   All day   SRR followup meeting   Garching
 April 27   1330UT   ALMA Board Telecon
 April 28   1900UT   ANASAC Telecon
 May 3   1500UT   ASAC Telecon

May 3	1700UT	NAASC Telecon	
May 25	1330UT	ALMA Board Telecon	
June 13-14	all day	ALMA Board Meeting	Santiago
Jun 19-20 (tent)	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 **********

EVLA Memo #101 "Multi Frequency Synthesis Imaging for the EVLA : An initial investigation"
Authors : Urvashi R.V., NRAO & New Mexico Tech; T.J.Cornwell, ATNF; S.T.Myers, NRAO
April 12, 2006

Abstract: This document presents an analysis and comparison of existing multi frequency synthesis algorithms along with some hybrids, from the point of view of (E)VLA wide-band imaging requirements of 1 microJy rms noise and $>10^6$ dynamic range from an 8 hour observation over a bandwidth of 1GHz at L Band. Tests on simulated wide-band data with power law (and non power-law) spectra show the following.
(i) Single channel deconvolution techniques are inadequate due to the limiting single channel sensitivity and the varying spatial resolution across channels.
(ii) Bandwidth synthesis along with double deconvolution techniques that model the spectral variation as a power law work well for sources with pure power law spectra.
For non power-law spectra, especially with large scale weak emission, inaccuracies in the estimation of the actual spectral signature of the sources lead to deconvolution artifacts at the 10 microJy level.
(iii) Hybrid techniques that combine single channel imaging and bandwidth synthesis using a power law model for spectral flux variation, work well when only bright and compact sources have significant spectral flux variation.
Therefore, alternate algorithms (or variants) must be devised to extend the modeling of the spectral flux variation beyond that of a pure power law and simultaneously account for the accurate deconvolution of extended emission.

View a ps or pdf version of EVLA Memo #100 at:
http://www.aoc.nrao.edu/evla/memolist.shtml

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

ALMA presentations from the Inaugural Japan-Taiwan ALMA Science Workshop Dec. 15 -16, 2005 are available on line through links at
http://alma.asiaa.sinica.edu.tw/activities/workshop2005/program_frame.php

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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)

Post Doctoral Research Associate Studies of high-mass star formation
Salary up to £26,401 per annum (Ref: EPS/108/06)

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY JODRELL BANK OBSERVATORY

A postdoctoral position is available to work on a new VLA high resolution radio continuum survey of the Galactic Plane. This Large VLA Project has been awarded ~400 hours of observing time and will begin in June 2006; it will cover the same area as the northern GLIMPSE survey made by the SPITZER satellite. The postdoctoral fellow will take charge of the observations, reduction and exploitation of the survey, aimed principally at the study of high-mass star formation. Collaboration with other members of the international team is envisaged.

The position is available immediately for a period of two years in the first instance, with the possibility of extension beyond this date. The appointment will be as a Research Associate, with a starting salary in the range of £24,886 to £26,401 per annum.

Application forms and further particulars are available at http://www.manchester.ac.uk/vacancies or from EPS HR Office, The University of Manchester, Sackville Street Building, Manchester M60 1QD, Tel: 0161 275 8837; Fax: 0161 306 5037 or email: eps-hr@manchester.ac.uk.

Quote ref: EPS/108/06

Closing date: Monday 1 May 2006

Informal inquiries may be made to Philip Diamond, tel: 01477 571321, email pdiamond@jb.man.ac.uk

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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

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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@nrao.edu or awootten@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/mmaimcal/ALMACalendars.html

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Allemploy mailing list
Allemploy@listmgr.cv.nrao.edu
http://listmgr.cv.nrao.edu/mailman/listinfo/allemploy