

11 July 2005  
AUI office, Washington DC

First, I would like to introduce my NRAO colleagues at this ALMA antenna contract signing ceremony:

Adrian Russell, NA ALMA PM  
Marc Rafal, past NA ALMA PM, Interim NA antenna IPT lead  
Bill Porter, NA ALMA Project Office Business Manager  
Jeff Zivic, NA antenna IPT lead

Tony Beasley, JAO ALMA PM

Remarks:

As an astronomer and the NRAO Director, signing the NA ALMA antenna procurement contract is truly a momentous occasion. As you know, ALMA is meant to revolutionize Astronomy, making it possible for us to answer many fundamental questions, such as how stars and planetary systems are formed, and how the first galaxies were formed at the beginning of the Universe. ~~Also~~ because it is an international partnership and the largest ground-based telescope facility under construction, the entire astronomical community in the world is watching. And, without the antennas, the most sensitive detectors in the world would not help.

The ALMA antenna procurement process has been <sup>a</sup> truly elaborate, <sup>and</sup> ~~or tortuous~~, but the key is that we are about to sign the NA procurement this afternoon, <sup>after</sup> almost a year of extensive coordination with our European partner, negotiations with Vertex and exhaustively testing the prototype antennas.

Many people contributed to this most important procurement in the ALMA project, and there is no doubt that on behalf of AUI/NRAO Pat Donahoe deserves the lion share of the credit. Other key members on the AUI/NRAO team include Dick Hames, Marc Rafal, Bill Porter, Peter Napier, Jeff Mangum, and Adrian Russell. ~~And of course~~, the AUI President Ethan Screier, and his predecessor, Riccardo Giacconi provided much of the strategic inputs. Finally, without Tony Beasley's leadership in the prototype testing, we will not be here today.

Last but not least, I <sup>like to</sup> ~~should~~ acknowledge the full support of the NSF, especially in the person of Bob Dickman, and the courageous decision of Michael Turner, Assistant Director of the MPS Directorate, to allow the NA antenna procurement to proceed without waiting for ESO.

Thought  
the  
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and  
technical

heroic  
last December

2005

The signing of the antenna contract between the NRAO and Vertex today involves the mere stroke of pens by Rex and I, but it is a giant step for Astronomy.

**Billie Rodriguez**

**From:** Elena Zuffanelli [ezuffane@eso.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 06, 2005 9:12 AM  
**To:** Christoph Haupt; Elena Zuffanelli; Eric Pangole; graffi@eso.org; hrudolf@eso.org; jschwarz@eso.org; Peter Shaver; ghtan@eso.org; Stefano Stanghellini; Holger Meuss; F. Biancat Marchet; Robert Laing; Tom Wilson; nthebaud@eso.org; Pascal Martinez; jbsen@eso.org; dtail@eso.org; fpatt@eso.org; Pascal Lapeyre; Silvio Rossi; sturolla@eso.org; Volker Heinz; Luitjens Popken; Hans Rykaczewski; vwang@eso.org; Beatrice Sivertsen; Herve'; Garreth Aspinall; Alessandro Caproni; Gianluca Chiozzi; bgustafs@eso.org; Bogdan Jeram; Moreno Pasquato; Marcus Schilling; psivera@eso.org; Heiko Sommer; mzampare@eso.org; A M Chavan; Preben Grosbol; Andreas Wicenec; David Silva; Canio Dichirico; Max Kraus; Franz Koch; avkester@eso.org; Rein H. Warmels; almaipt-mgr@nrao.edu; jao@nrao.edu; ishiguro@nro.nao.ac.jp; Roy Booth; Tony Beasley; bronfman@das.uchile.cl; C. Cesarsky; R. Dickman; Jim Hesser; A. Sargent; P. van der Kruit; Richard Wade; rmurowin@nrao.edu; Massimo Tarenghi; Tom Wilson; Al Wooten; Ian Corbett; Patrick Donahoe; Fred Lo; D. Hofstadt; Jesus Martin-Pintado; Masato Ishiguro; Norio Kaifu; Tetsuo Hasegawa; Lewis.Knee@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca; Ethan Schreier; Adrian Russell; Felix Mirabel; Grage Henrik; Gary H Sanders; Jean Turner; Eduardo Hardy; Leonardo Testi; Hans Rykaczewski; Alma Science Advisory Committee; AMAC members USA and EUROPE; Pierre Cox; S. Aalto ; Ewine van Dishoeck; John Richer; P. Schilke; Richard Hills; A. Benz; Leonardo Testi; C. Waelkens ; Hans Rykaczewski; Peter Shaver; Tom Wilson; Robert Laing; D. Field; jafonso@oal.ul.pt; Jorma Harju; cerni  
**Cc:** Miriam Satin; Jennifer Neighbours; Ann Edmunds; 'Alejandra Arraya'; Billie Rodriguez; Pentecost, Elizabeth A.; Anna dell'Erba; Isoide Kreutle; Iris Ostaschek  
**Subject:** ALMA Antenna contract' signature today - message from H. Rykaczewski / S. Stanghellini  
**Attachments:** signature.jpg; signature1.JPG

Dear Colleagues,

it is our pleasure to inform you that Dr. C. Cesarsky, Director General of ESO, and Dr. P. Mauté, on behalf of the Alcatel Alenia Space, EIE, MT Aerospace Consortium, have signed the procurement contract for the supply of 25 antennas, with an option to supply up to 32 antennas, for the ALMA project.

We would like to take this important event to thank all our colleagues who have made important and significant contributions to successfully achieve this very essential milestone of ALMA. At the same time we wish to encourage all our colleagues to continue contributing with their dedicated passion to make sure that this very challenging and unprecedented project progresses to a success.

With best regards,

H. Rykaczewski, European ALMA Project Manager  
 S. Stanghellini, ALMA Antenna IPT Leader

attached: photos of contract signature

12/6/2005



