

**Subject:** [allemploy] FYI: 3 July 2006 BIWEEKLY CALENDAR OF THE ALMA PROJECT at NRAO  
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**Date:** 7/14/2006, 10:56 AM  
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BIWEEKLY CALENDAR OF THE ALMA PROJECT at NRAO  
3 July 2006 - 17 July 2006

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

NINS (National Institute of Natural Sciences, Japan) Agreement: NINS President Yoshiro Shimura signed the ALMA agreement 2006 July 4. This marks the beginning of the trilateral ALMA project. The ALMA Board, in its meeting in Chile in mid-June, had recommended that ALMA funding agencies sign the document. ALMA officially becomes The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) when all parties sign. The ALMA Board approved a new standard description of ALMA for the trilateral project--Revised ALMA Standard Description:

The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), an international astronomy facility, is a partnership between Europe, Japan and North America in cooperation with the Republic of Chile. ALMA is funded in Europe by the European Southern Observatory (ESO), in Japan by the National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS) in cooperation with the Academia Sinica in Taiwan and in North America by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) in cooperation with the National Research Council of Canada (NRC). ALMA construction and operations are led on behalf of Europe by ESO, on behalf of Japan by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) and on behalf of North America by the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), which is managed by Associated Universities, Inc. (AUI).

ALMA Board approval: 2006-03-24  
Effective: 2006-07-01

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On 29 June, Eduardo Donoso reported the completion of the first ALMA antenna pad, at the Vertex Site Erection Facility adjacent to the future OSF using an EIE foundation design. This is pad # 5 at the Vertex Site. Congratulations Eduardo and Team ALMA! Many others will follow and within a year these foundations will begin to sprout the antennas from which ALMA science will eventually blossom!

Photo:

<http://www.cv.nrao.edu/~awootten/mmailcal/ALMAVxFdn5done.jpg>

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The ALMA Camp Recreation Room was finished on time and on budget. An inauguration party was held on July 4th, also celebrating Independence Day (US).

<http://www.cv.nrao.edu/~awootten/mmailcal/ALMARecCenter.mov>

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At the time of the last biweekly calendar, the full language of the US House funding bills was not yet available. It is now.

>From [http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/R?cp109:FLD010:@1\(hr520\)](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/R?cp109:FLD010:@1(hr520)):

-----MRE and ALMA words-----

The Committee recommendation includes requested funding for five continuing projects, as follows: \$47,890,000 for Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA); \$27,400,000 for EarthScope; \$28,650,000 for the IceCube Neutrino Observatory; \$42,880,000 for the Scientific Ocean Drilling Vessel; and \$9,130,000 for South Pole Station Modernization. In addition, the recommendation includes initial funding for three new project starts, as follows: \$56,000,000 for the Alaska Region Research Vessel; \$13,500,000 for the Ocean Observatories Initiative; and \$11,800,000 for the National

Ecological Observatory Network. The recommendation does not include \$3,000,000 requested to reimburse the Judgment Fund of the U.S. Treasury.

The Committee is aware that the NSF has recently completed a detailed re-examination of the ALMA project. The United States' cost for completing the new baseline is estimated to be 45 percent higher than originally projected. Although a part of the increase is due to rising labor and material costs, some of these new liabilities are the result of management problems, in particular, the lack of partner integration and centralized decision making that can potentially cause cost growth. While the recommendation includes the full request for the ALMA project for 2007, the NSF is directed to submit a report to the Committee by October 1, 2006, on how it intends to correct the overall management and project issues. In the event that there are additional ALMA funding requirements in fiscal year 2007, the Committee expects NSF to submit a reprogramming of funds from lower priorities or new starts in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 605 of this Act.

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ALMA is not funded by NASA, of course, but SOFIA is an instrument which we expect will execute synergistic science. There are words on this facility also:

-----NASA-----

The Committee understands that NASA is in the process of reviewing the future course of action on the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA). The Committee encourages NASA to propose a reallocation of funding through the regular reprogramming process should this review result in a continuation of the program.

And the results of the review are in as in the biweekly report: The world's largest airborne astronomical observatory has passed a technical and programmatic review that could potentially lead to the continuation of the mission. NASA's Program Management Council concluded that there were no insurmountable technical or programmatic challenges to the continued development of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA). The agency has developed a technically viable plan to proceed with the development of the SOFIA aircraft, subject to the identification of appropriate funding offsets.

[http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2006/jun/HQ\\_06240\\_SOFIA\\_update.html](http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2006/jun/HQ_06240_SOFIA_update.html)

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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](http://www.alma.cl/alma_project)

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General Happenings

Sky: Full moon, 10 July (exact at 11:02 p.m. EDT).

OSF (Ops Support Facility, 9600ft altitude): The first antenna pad, No 5 at the Vertex Site Erection Facility, has been completed. The ALMA Camp Recreation Room was completed on time and on budget on 4 July.

AOS (Array Ops Site, 16570ft altitude): From 3-7 July, the APEX facility has seldom registered more than 1mm of PWV.

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DAILY CALENDAR (Times EDT ) see

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

Mon 3 Jul NRAO Holiday

Tue 4 Jul NRAO Holiday

Wed 5 Jul

11:00 am ASAC telecon

Thu 6 Jul  
 Fri 7 Jul  
 Sat 8 Jul  
 Sun 9 Jul  
 Mon 10 Jul  
 Tue 11 Jul Full Moon  
 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 12 Jul  
 Thu 13 Jul  
 11:00 AM EDT: Calibration Group Telecon  
 Fri 14 Jul  
 Sat 15 Jul  
 Sun 16 Jul  
 Mon 17 Jul

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

Jul 25-26		FE face-to-face	CV
Jul 27-28	all day	FE LO CDR	CV
Aug 2		ASAC Telecon	
Aug 3		ALMA Board Telecon	
Aug 8-9		B7 cartridge CDR	Grenoble
Aug 28		Move of PSI to ATF	
Sept 16-17	all day	ASAC face-to-face	Arcetri
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\*\*\*\*\*

ALMA has openings for Head of Science Operations, Head of Technical Services, and Head of Administration. Please see:  
[http://www.nrao.edu/administration/personnel\\_office/careers.shtml](http://www.nrao.edu/administration/personnel_office/careers.shtml)

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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/ALMAcalendars.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>