

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



March 8, 2007

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

Dr. Richard Wade
President, ESO Council
c/o PPARC
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 1SZ
United Kingdom

Dear Dr. Wade:

On the behalf of the US National Science Foundation (NSF), I am writing to formally accept the European Southern Observatory's (ESO) provision of land within the existing ESO site in Santiago, Chile for construction of the future central offices of the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA).

As you are aware, the original offer was proposed in a letter of May 2004 from Dr. Catherine Cesarsky, Director General of ESO, to Dr. Bob Dickman at the NSF. It offered space available on ESO's Vitacura site in Santiago on which to construct the proposed ALMA building, free of ground rent, including access roads and any other infrastructural facilities required, with an address and entrance separate to those of ESO's buildings. This arrangement was recognized to be of mutual benefit to both NSF and ESO, and an agreement was signed in January 2006 between yourself and Dr. Michael Turner, on behalf of the ESO council and NSF respectively, affirming those mutual benefits and establishing the North American Executive (Associated Universities Inc.) as the employer of local staff in Chile. In March 2006 at it's meeting in Kyoto, the ALMA Board of Directors approved the selection of the Santiago site as the location for the ALMA Headquarters building, and indicated that implementation should go forward consistent with the offer extended in Dr. Cesarsky's May 2004 letter.

At the present time, a specific, preferred location at the site has been identified by the ESO Council. ESO, the Joint ALMA Office (JAO), and NSF are working together to secure architectural designs consistent with the need for ALMA to have an image in Chile as a separate international collaboration with its own distinct identity.

I very much look forward to construction commencing, as I know you do. Thank you for your ongoing and valued collaboration in the development of this ground-breaking new facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arden L. Bement, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Arden L. Bement, Jr.
Director

Cc: Larry Rudolph, OGC