

NOTES OF JAPAN-EUROPEAN-USA ALMA MEETING

TOKYO September 29-30.

Participants:

Japan	Europe	USA
K. Kodaira	C. Cesarsky	R. Giacconi
M. Ishiguro	N. König	P. Vanden Bout
S. Miyama	I. Corbett	

Observers: R. Dickman (NSF, USA), W. Blanpied (NSF, Tokyo), S. Yamamoto, N. Nakai, M. Inoue, R. Kawabe, S. Sakamoto.

Draft Tripartite MoU

1. The meeting started by considering the text of the draft tri-partite MoU prepared by the Europeans and dated 23 August 1999.
2. On the first day a few minor changes to the draft text were agreed. Other changes, including the timescale for the draft Agreement, were discussed but could not be agreed.
3. The meeting then adjourned to allow a visit to Masayuki Inoue, Deputy Director-General of the Science and International Affairs Bureau of Monbusho, to whom the importance of the project was explained. The European and US partners stressed the value attached by them to the potential Japanese scientific and technical contribution, and confirmed their hope that the Japanese would be able to join them.
4. On the second day the Japanese proposed, via a draft Resolution, an alternative approach which addressed co-ordination between the Japanese LMSA and the European-USA ALMA project with the goal of achieving an enhanced project.

Agreed Resolution

5. After discussion of the draft, the text of a Resolution between the ALMA Co-ordination Committee (ACC) and the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan was agreed.
6. The key section of this Resolution states that:

“The Signatories resolve:

- to establish the appropriate liaison between the ALMA and LMSA projects in the Design and Development phase to continue to work together with the goal of ultimately defining an enhanced Atacama large millimeter/submillimeter array project;

and to this end

- to establish as soon as possible a joint scientific and technical working group to report to the Signatories during the year 2000;
 - to use best efforts to obtain approval and necessary funding for their projects;
 - to continue to work towards a formal agreement on their collaboration on this enhanced project.”
7. It was agreed that the Japanese would seek endorsement of this resolution before the next meeting of the ACC (12 November), at which it was expected to be ratified by the ACC and signed by its Chair.
 8. It was agreed that R. Brown (NRAO), R. Kurz (ESO) and M. Ishiguro (NAOJ) would establish the working group referred to above.

Access to Atacama Site

9. It was agreed that AUI and ESO would work together with the intention of concluding a suitable agreement that could be jointly signed, if possible, with CONICYT to secure access to the selected Atacama site for tests and installation of prototype antennas. It was agreed that Japan would continue to seek an agreement for the installation of their 10m prototype on the site in May/June 2001.

I F Corbett