



ALMA Town Meeting Introduction

K. Y. Lo

Director of NRAO



Outline

Introduction - K. Y. Lo, Director of NRAO

ALMA Science Examples – Min S. Yun, ANASAC Chairman

Project description, status - M. Tarenghi, ALMA Director

NA ALMA Science Center - A. Wootten, ALMA/ NA Project Scientist

Discussion (15 mins) - Moderator A. Wootten



ALMA

Single instrument composed of 64 high-precision antennas

Located on the Chajnantor plain of the Chilean Andes 16500' above sea level

Primary function: observe and precisely and sensitively image the millimeter and submillimeter Universe

A project of the US and Canada and ESO and Spain with Chile as host partner; Japan has joined to bring additional sensitivity, receivers, and other elements.



Atacama Large Millimeter Array



Brief Overview of ALMA

Partners: US+ Canada - ESO+ Spain - Chile - Japan

ALMA has been endorsed as the highest priority project for the decade by the astronomical communities of the United States and Canada, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands (as the LSA) and Japan (the latter as LMSA).

NSF funding is in its seventh year with FY2005, beginning with three years for design and development.

The ALMA Agreement, signed by the partner funding agencies, sets out the organizing principles and working arrangements between the partners.

ALMA is governed by a Board, with representatives from each of the partners.

Each partner has designated an Executive to carry out that partner's responsibilities in ALMA; for North America the Executive is AUI/ NRAO; for Europe it is ESO.

ALMA construction activities are conducted by joint teams which report to the Joint ALMA Office (Tarenghi, Director; Beasley, Project Manager; Murowinski, Project Engineer; & TBA, Project Scientist; plus staff); this Office is now staffed and established in Santiago.

The Executives have established advisory bodies for contact with their own communities, and they conduct their own education and outreach programs.



Highlights of the Year

Construction of a working ALMA Camp at 2900m, road to 5000m level well under way (construction details in Tarenghi's talk).

Establishment of JAO in Santiago

Entry of Japan into Project

Integration of ALMA components into a functioning whole continues

Definition of the North American, European ALMA Science Centers proceeding

ALMA Town Meeting at Atlanta AAS

ALMA Workshop at University of Maryland and Community Meeting at ESO