ASAC Meeting—May, 2007

GENERAL CHARGE

The ALMA Scientific Advisory Committee (ASAC) will provide advice on those major issues presented to the ASAC by the Project Scientist or the ALMA Board that affect the science capabilities of ALMA and require decisions to be made or priorities to be set regarding project tasks and resources. The ASAC will be kept informed of progress and developments in ALMA through periodic reports and briefings provided by the Joint ALMA Office and shall meet at least twice a year. Reports of the ASAC’s deliberations will be made in writing to the Board by the Chairperson of the ASAC following each Committee meeting, on a schedule specified in advance by the Board. The Project Scientist serves on the Committee ex officio.

Charge for the Meeting of May, 2007

The ASAC is requested to consider the following topics, and to make recommendations to the Board that include your priority or time scale where your recommendations require expenditure of ALMA’s fixed resources. Note: ASAC’s written report must be received no later than Friday, 8 June 2007 in order to allow the JAO time to prepare their written response for consideration of both documents by the Board at its 27-28 June 2007 meetings in Chile.

1. Review and summarize the science in the version 2 of the DRSP. We are particularly interested in the qualitative changes from Version 1 of the DRSP and implications, if any, for the construction and operation of ALMA. In conjunction with this, review the status of the correlator capabilities and recommend which of its numerous modes should be implemented first.

2. Within the context of operational planning, review the status and capability of the Atacama Compact Array both as a set of special purpose sub arrays and as an element of the full ALMA.

3. Review the current status of molecular line databases and their readiness for ALMA science. The review should evaluate existing plans for the next five years in light of ALMA's needs at full operation and in coordination with other major projects with similar needs, in particular Herschel and SOFIA.

4. The ASAC should read and discuss the Operations Plan. Depending on the questions raised in the formal review of the Operations Plan in late February, the Board may request ASAC input in formulating its responses. Such requests will come as addenda to these charges, if needed.