



Atacama Large Millimeter/ submillimeter Array - ALMA

Overview & Status

ALMA Development Team

June 2007



ALMA

- International project to build & operate a large (up to 80-antennas) millimeter/submm ($\lambda \sim 0.85\text{-}3\text{mm}$) array at high altitude site (5000m) in northern Chile.
- Project began in 2002; Japan joined in 2004; site construction, hardware production lines underway, software in development 2007, 66 antennas in production; first antennas 2007; early science ~ 2010 , full science operations 2012.
- Two orders-of-magnitude improvement in mm radio astronomy capabilities.



ALMA – Major Elements

- Partners: ESO – US/Canada – Japan – Chile – Taiwan
- **Array Operations Site – AOS**
- **Operations Support Facility – OSF**
- **Santiago Central Offices – SCO**
- **ALMA Regional Centers – ARCs + ARClets**
- During full operation, the estimated flow of int/SD data into archive ~ 100 TB per year: proposal, u-v data, a reference image with pipeline processing history, calibration data... modern radio astronomy



ALMA Science Requirements

- High Fidelity Imaging.
- Precise Imaging at 0.1" Resolution.
- Routine Sub-mJy Continuum Sensitivity.
- Routine mK Spectral Sensitivity.
- Wideband Frequency Coverage.
- Wide Field Imaging Mosaicing.
- Submillimeter Receiver System.
- Full Polarization Capability.
- System Flexibility.



Technical Specifications

- 54 12-m antennas, 12 7-m antennas, at 5000 m site
- Surface accuracy $\pm 25 \mu\text{m}$, 0.6" reference pointing in 9m/s wind, 2" absolute pointing all-sky.
- Array configurations between 150m to ~15-18km.
- 10 bands in 31-950 GHz + 183 GHz WVR.
- 8 GHz BW, dual polarization.
- Flux sens. 0.2 mJy in 1 min at 345 GHz (median cond.).
- Interferometry, mosaicing & total-power observing.
- Correlator: 4096 channels/IF (multi-IF), full Stokes.
- Data rate: 6MB/s average; peak 60-150 MB/s.
- All data archived (raw + images), pipeline processing.



ALMA Median Continuum Sensitivity

(1 minute; AM=1.3; 75% Quartile opacities $\lambda > 1\text{mm}$, 25% $\lambda < 1\text{mm}$)

Frequency (GHz)	Continuum (mJy)	Line 1 km s ⁻¹ (mJy)	Line 25 km s ⁻¹ (mJy)
35	0.02	5.1	1.03
110	0.027	4.4	0.89
140	0.039	5.1	1.01
230	0.071	7.2	1.44
345	0.12	10	1.99
675	0.85	51	10.2
850	1.26	66	13.3.



Brightness Temperature Sensitivity

(1 min, AM=1.3, 1.5mm, *0.35 PWV, 1 km/s)

Frequency (GHz)	B_{\max} 0.2km T_{cont} (K)	B_{\max} 0.2km T_{line} (K)	B_{\max} 10km T_{cont} (K)	B_{\max} 10km T_{line} (K)
35	0.002	0.050	0.48	130
110	0.003	0.049	0.84	120
230	0.0005	0.054	1.3	140
345	0.0014	0.12	3.6	300
490	0.0030	0.23	7.6	580
675*	0.0046	0.28	12	690
850*	0.011	0.58	27	1400

<http://www.eso.org/projects/alma/science/bin/sensitivity.html>



ALMA Science

- **Planetary regions, nearby disks**
- Astrochemistry
- Interstellar medium (Galaxy, Local Group)
- High-redshift deep fields

- *+128 projects in first 3yrs – DRSP...*

- *This conference...*



Image © 2005 NASA
Image © 2005 Earth Metrics

© 2005 Google



ALMA Site

ALMA

Paranal

La Serena

Santiago



San Pedro de Atacama,
Atacama Desert, Northern Chile



ALMA Sites

To AOS (43km)

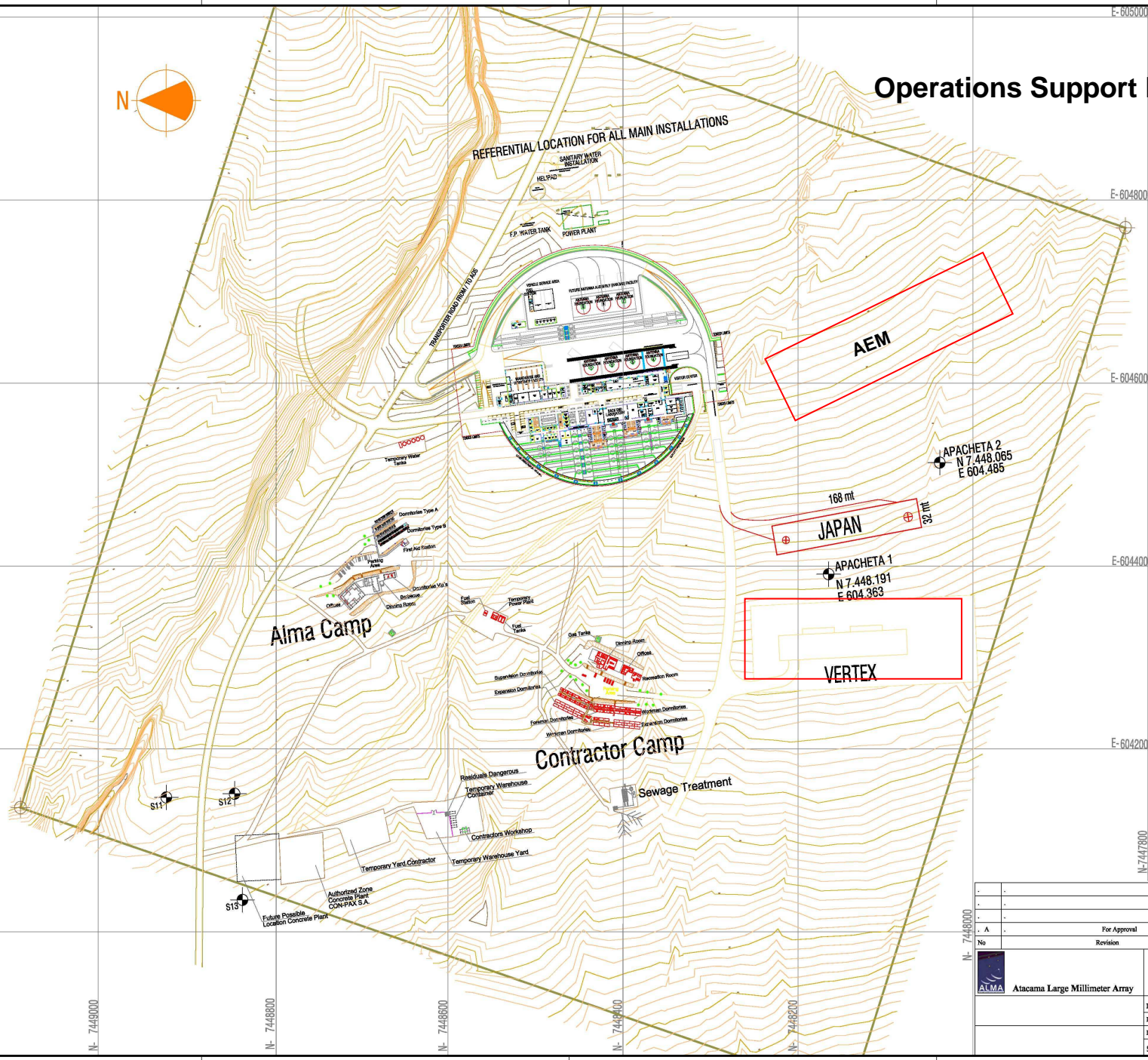
OSF Site (15km)



Operations Support Facility



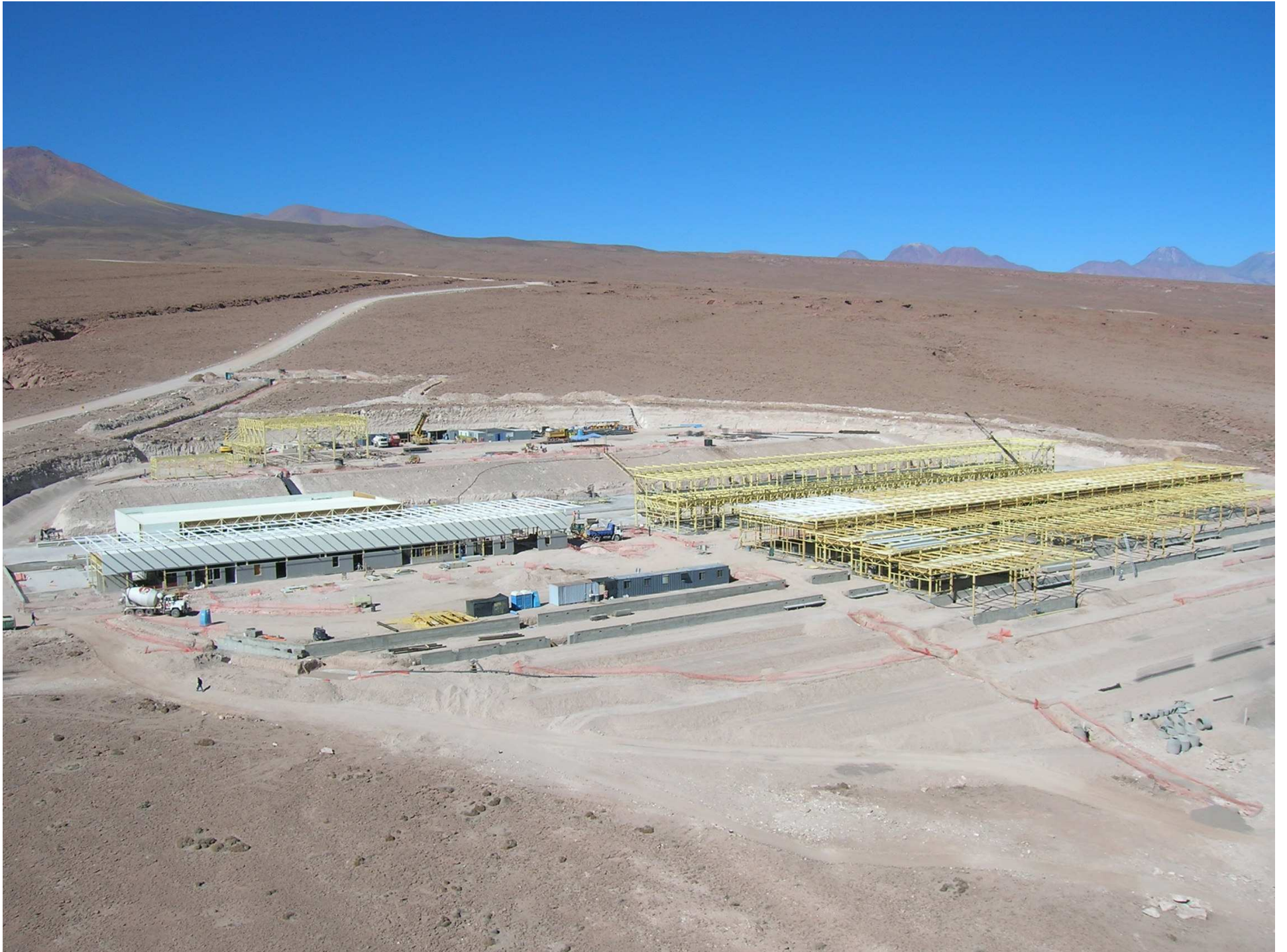
REFERENTIAL LOCATION FOR ALL MAIN INSTALLATIONS



No.		Revision		For Approval		Date		By	
A				Feb 06		ALMA			
ALMA		Atacama Large Millimeter Array		ALMA PROJECT ACA FACILITIES SITE GENERAL LAYOUT		Date: February 2005		Scale: Indicate	
				Designed: HHC		Checked: JRI			
				Drawn: JAR		Approved: EDO		FORMAT	
				SKETCH-20.08.06.01.410-ADW/G		AI			



05.24.2007



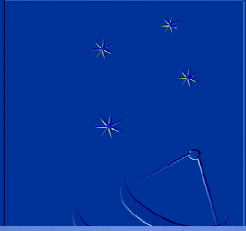


19/06/2007 13:56



Lascar – April + October 2006





Road: OSF-AOS ← Transporter



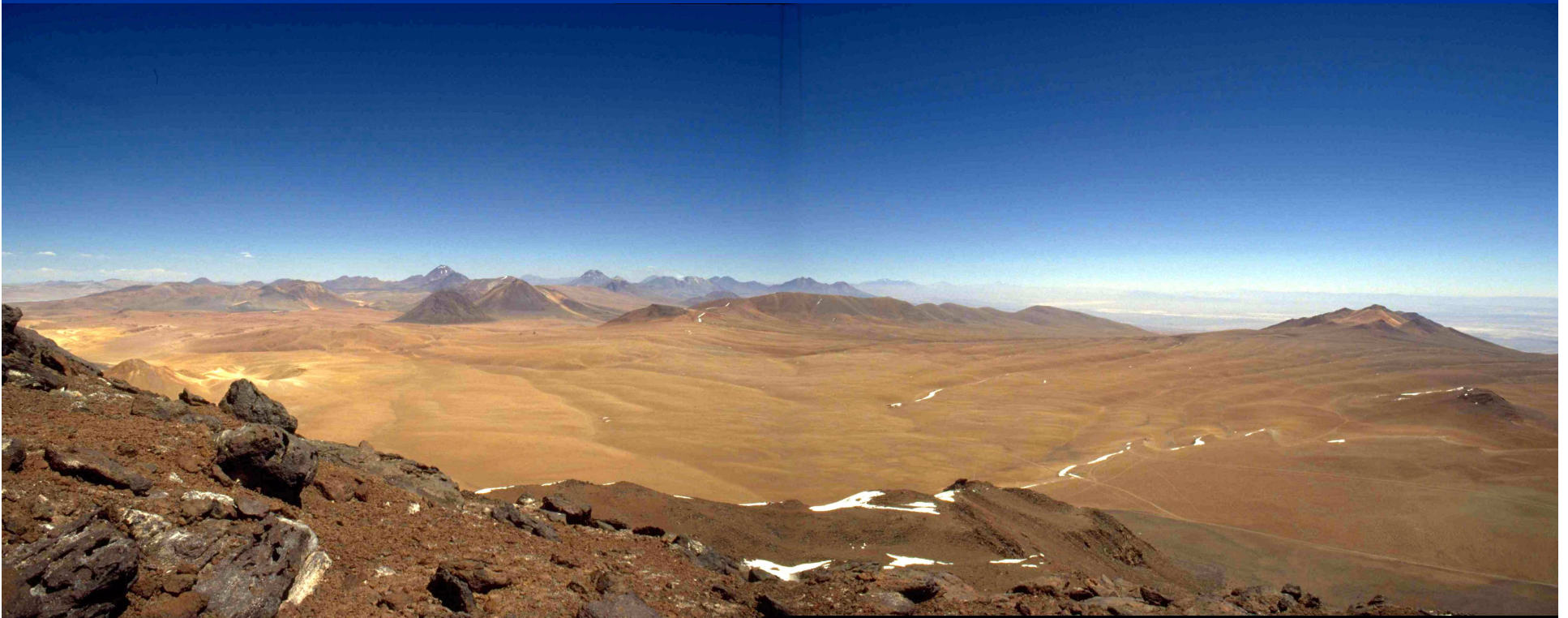


QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.



5000m Chajnantor plateau – looking south

Array Operations Site





Chajnantor Plateau – looking north

V. Licancabur

C⁰ Chajnantor

Pampa La Bola



Center of Array

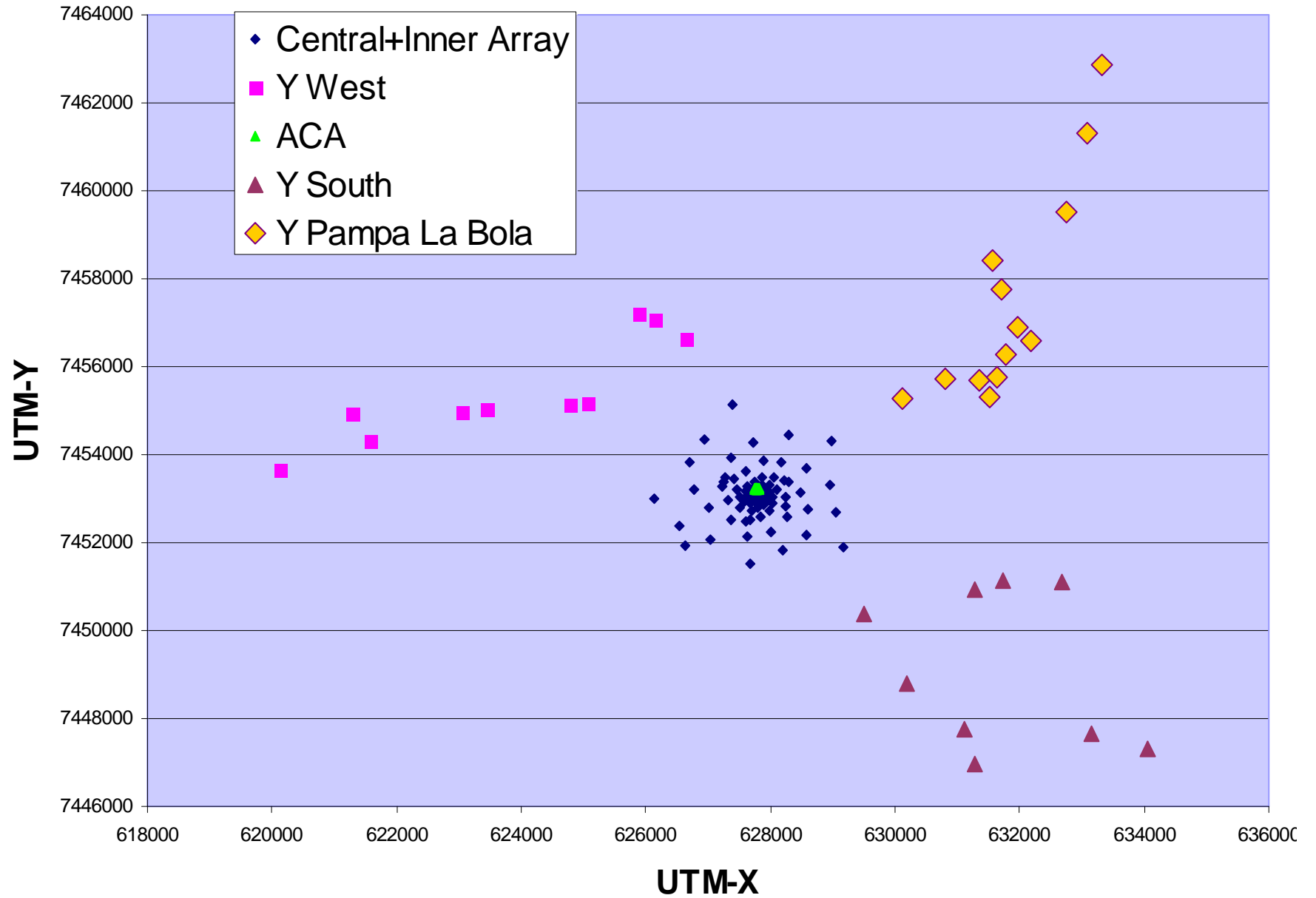


AOS Technical Building – March 2007

Array Center



27 Mar 2007 Full configuration - 192 pads





Antennas

- Demanding ALMA antenna specifications:
 - Surface accuracy (25 μm)
 - Absolute and offset pointing accuracy (2 arcsec absolute, 0.6 arcsec offset)
 - Fast switching (1.5 deg sky in 1.5 sec)
 - Path length (15 μm non-repeatable, 20 μm repeatable)
- To validate these specifications: three prototype antennas built & evaluated at ATF (VLA site)
- Three production contracts – US, Europe, Japan (General Dynamics/Vertex, Alcatel EIE MT Aerospace, Mitsubishi)



Prototype Antennas at ATF

Mitsubishi antenna

Vertex antenna

AEC antenna

12-m, Carbon Fiber Support Structure



Vertex Antenna #1





Vertex #1 – April 2007



04/27/2007

Mitsubishi #1 - Mar 2007



3. Shipping to Chile

Changes for the Better

Mitsubishi #1,2,3 - June 2007

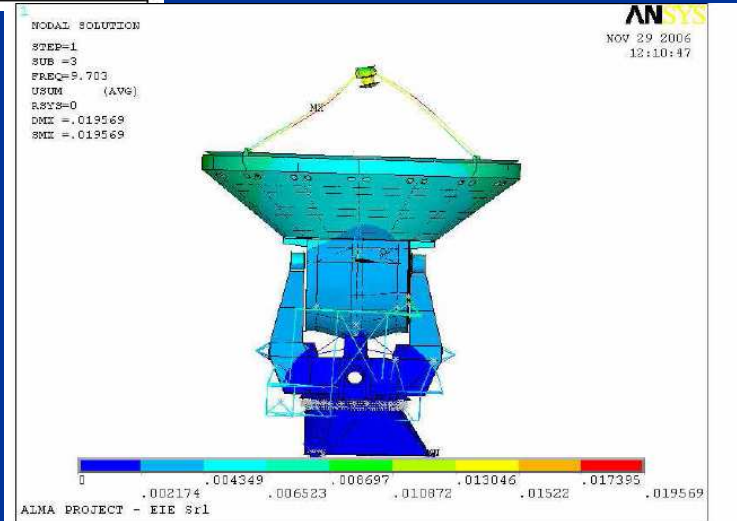
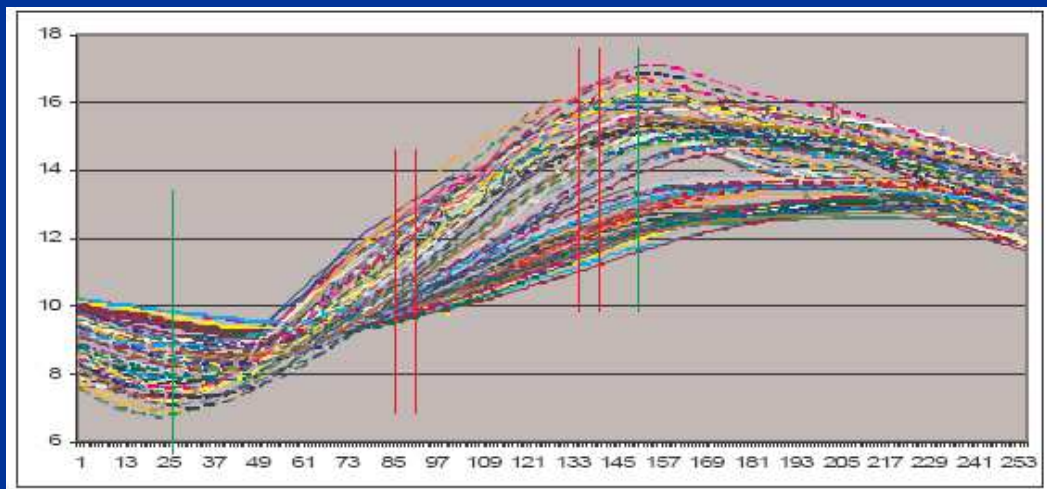
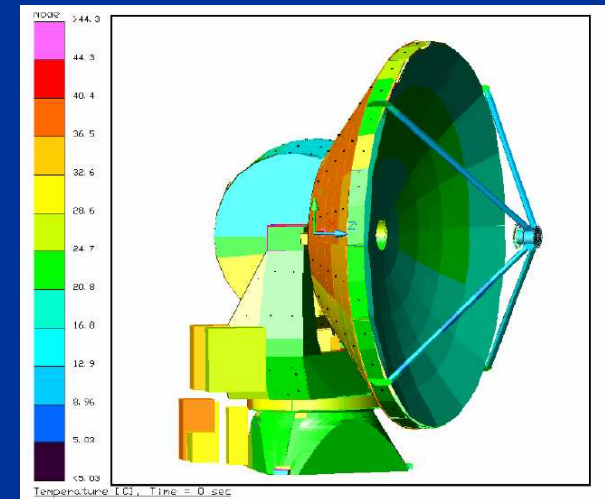
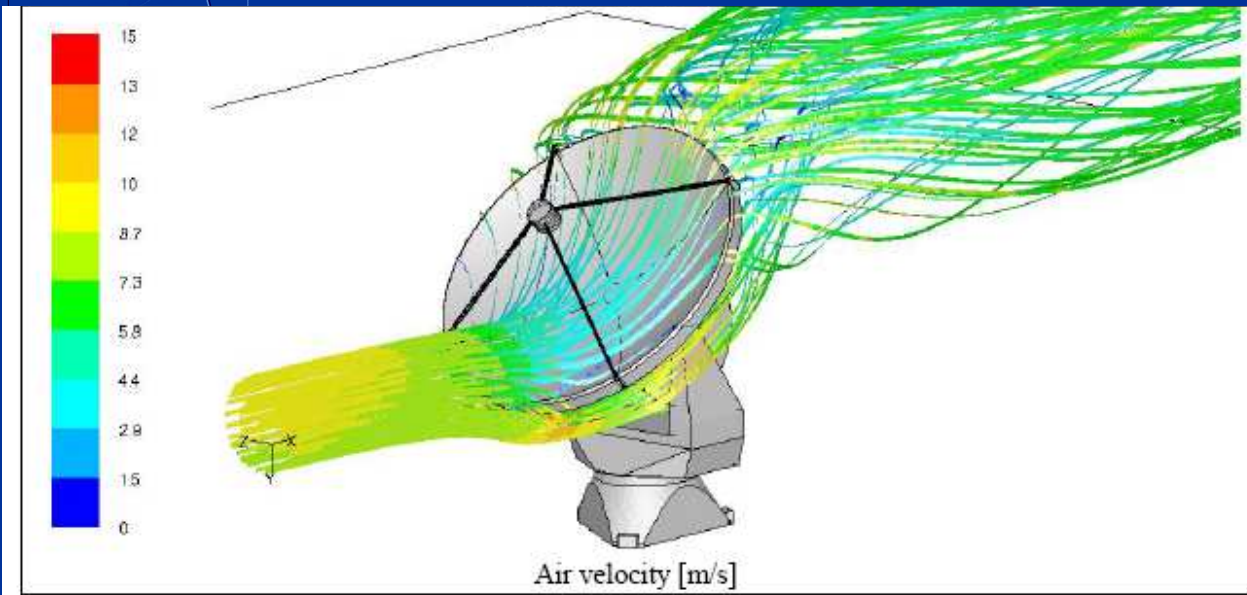


Loading to Barge



Transfer from Barge to Ship

AEM - PPDR Design Analysis – Jan 2007



ALMA Transporter



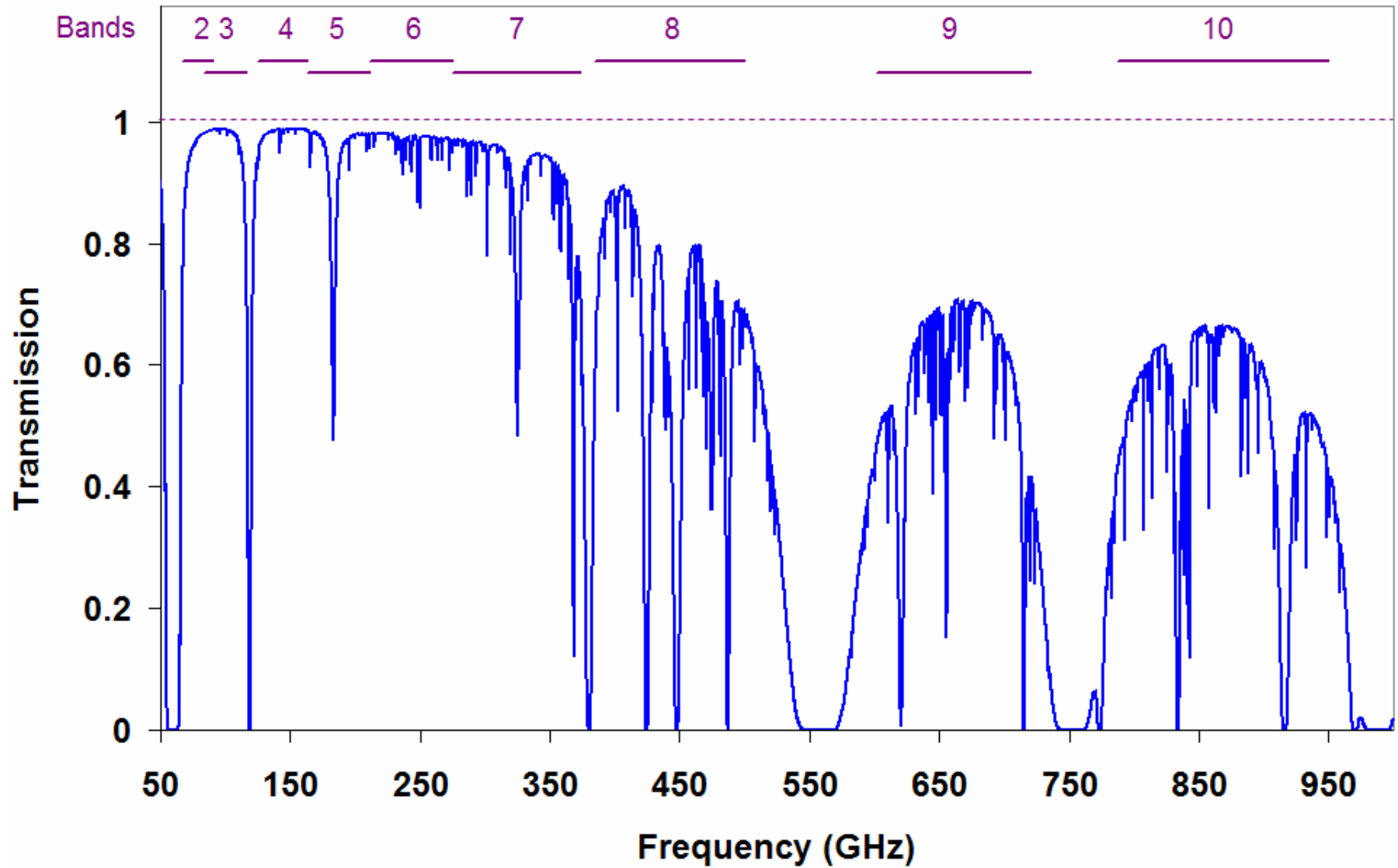
Transporter – May 2007





Atmospheric Opacity

Chajnantor - 5000m, 0.25mm pwv



Receivers/Front Ends

ALMA Band	Frequency Range	Receiver noise temperature		Mixing scheme	Receiver technology
		T_{Rx} over 80% of the RF band	T_{Rx} at any RF frequency		
1	31.3 – 45 GHz	17 K	28 K	USB	HEMT
2	67 – 90 GHz	30 K	50 K	LSB	HEMT
3	84 – 116 GHz	37 K	62 K	2SB	SIS
4	125 – 169 GHz	51 K	85 K	2SB	SIS
5	163 - 211 GHz	65 K	108 K	2SB	SIS
6	211 – 275 GHz	83 K	138 K	2SB	SIS
7	275 – 373 GHz	147 K	221 K	2SB	SIS
8	385 – 500 GHz	98 K	147 K	DSB	SIS
9	602 – 720 GHz	175 K	263 K	DSB	SIS
10	787 – 950 GHz	230 K	345 K	DSB	SIS

- **Dual, linear polarization channels:**
 - Increased sensitivity
 - Measurement of 4 Stokes parameters

- **183 GHz water vapour radiometer:**
 - Used for atmospheric path length correction



Front End assembly

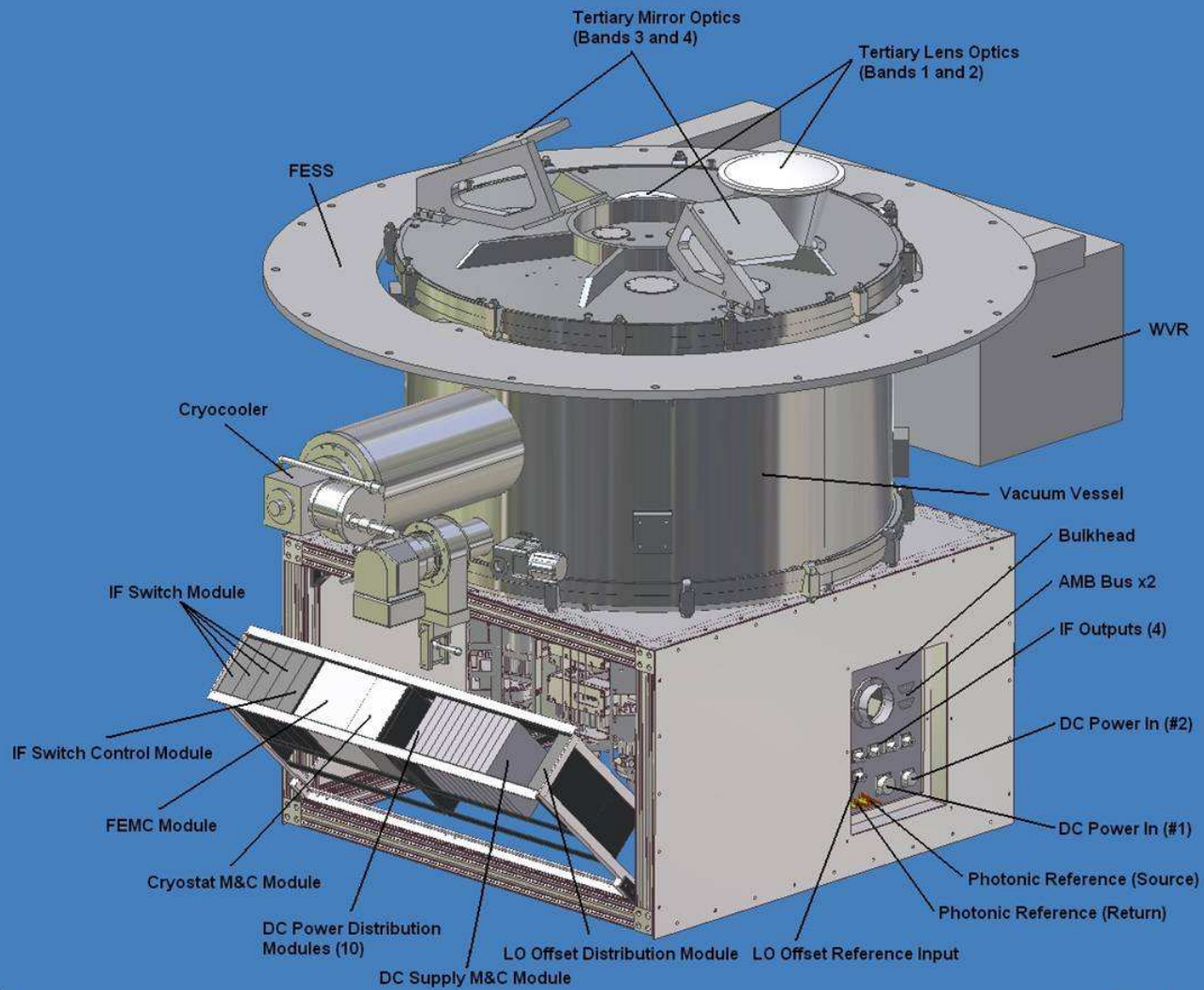
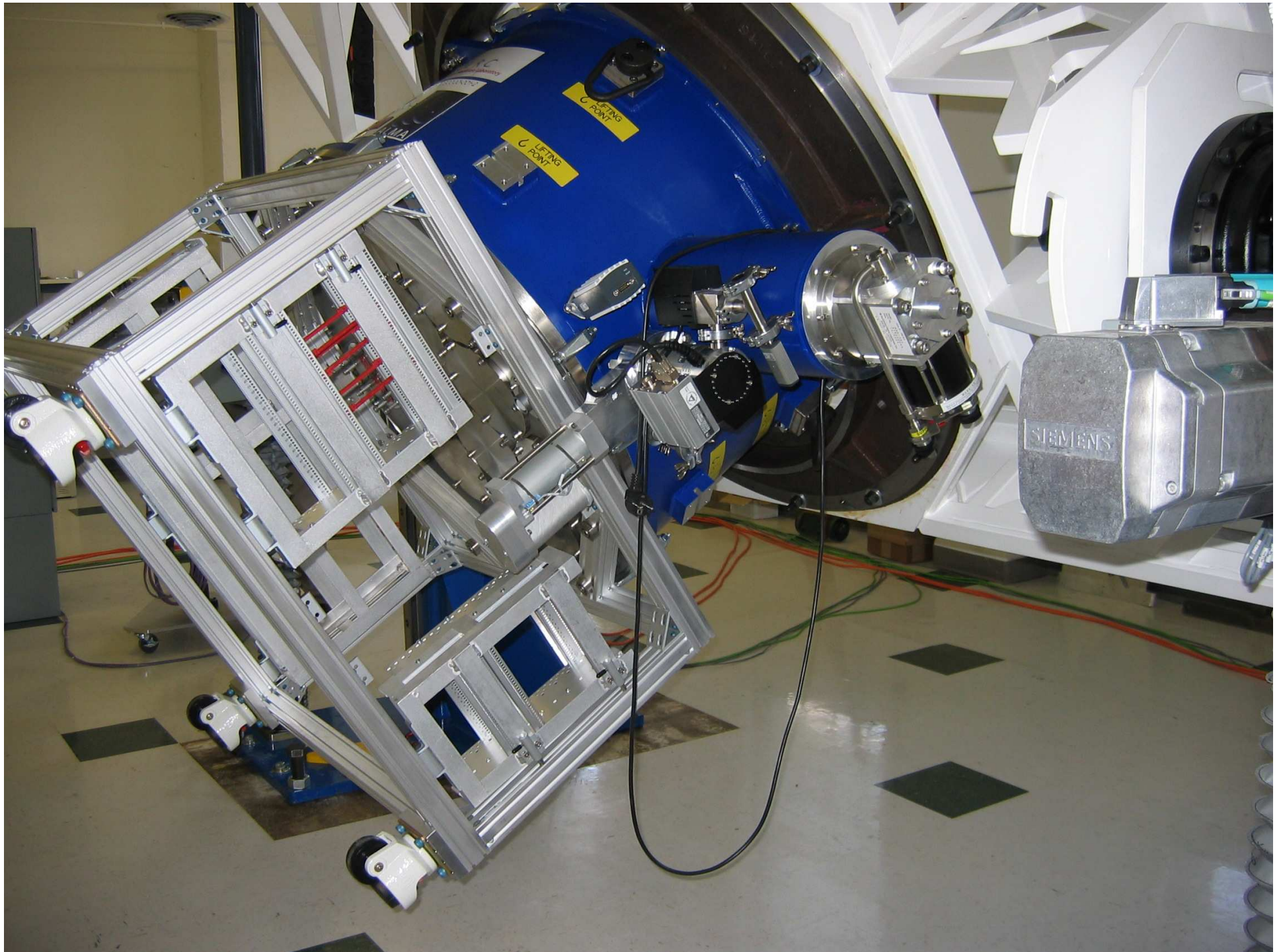


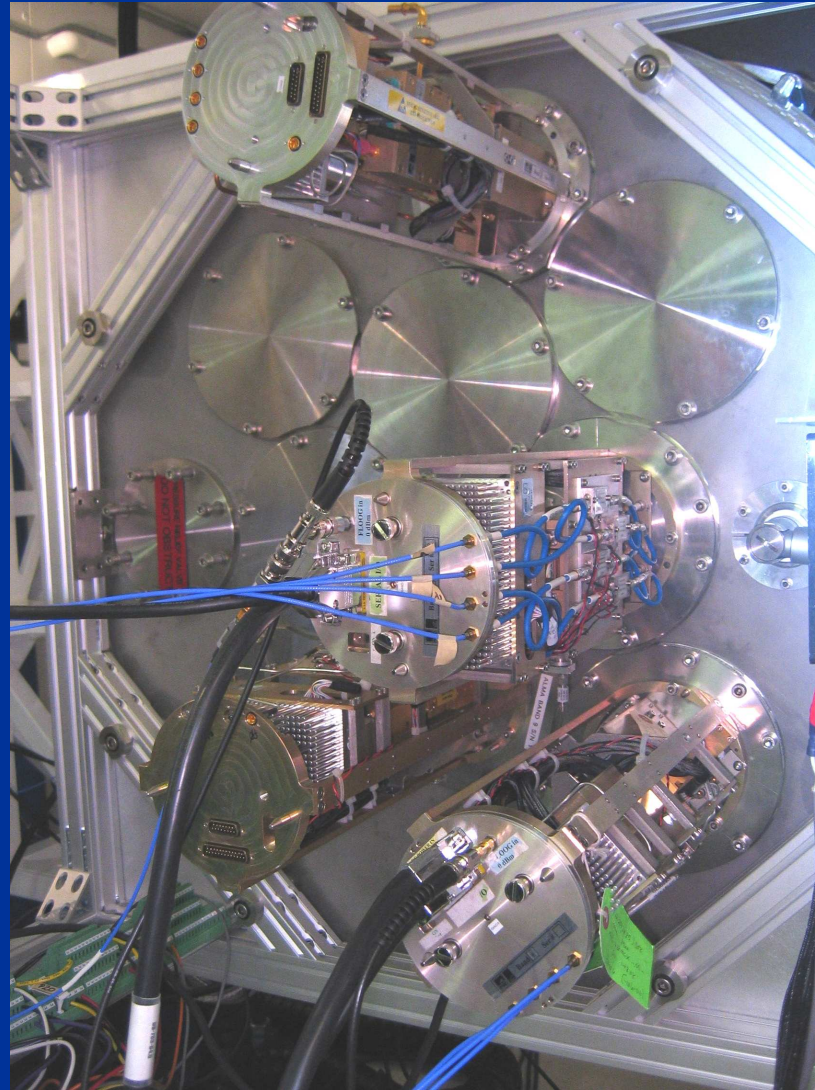
Figure 2





FE #1 (4 cartridges) – Mar07

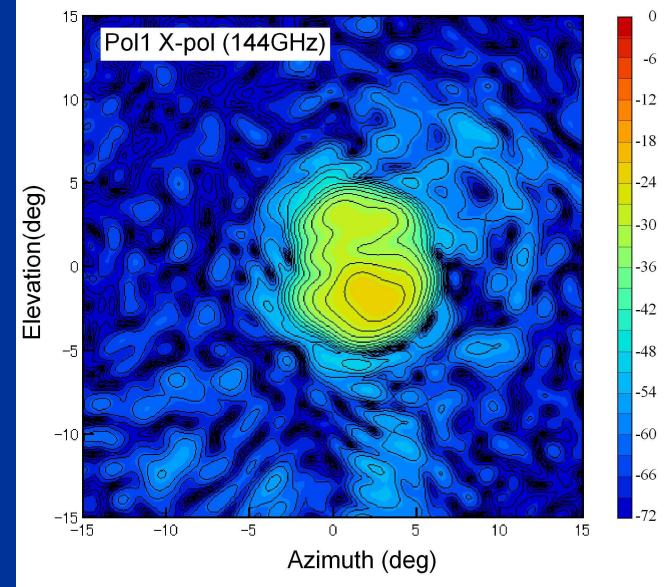
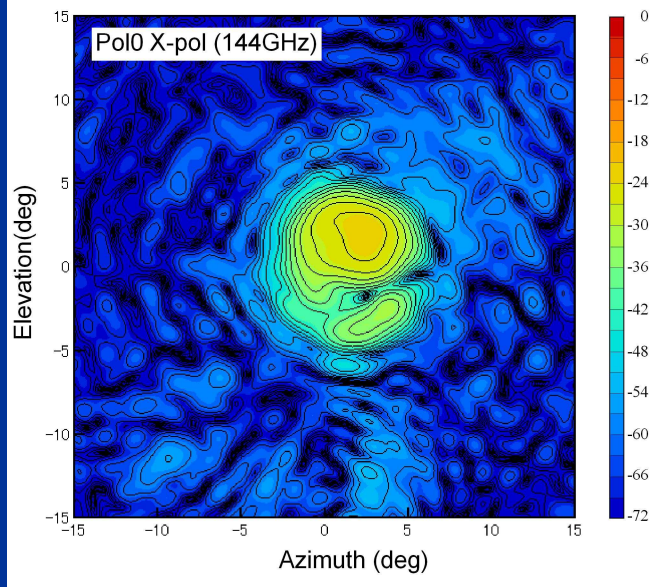
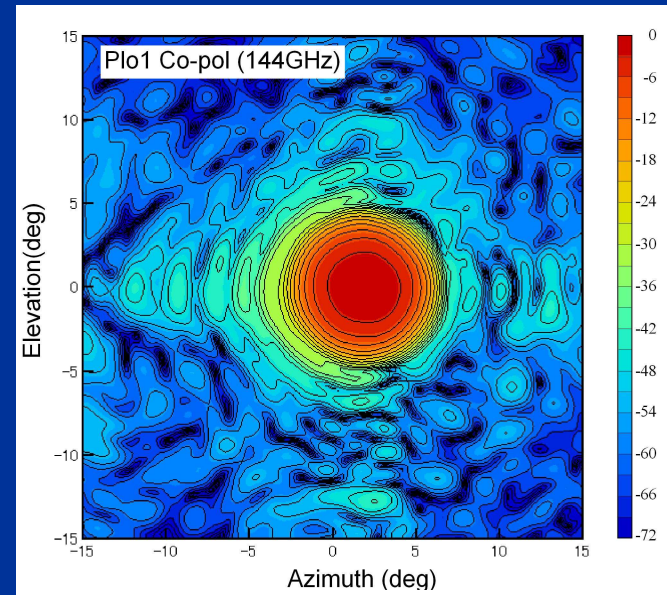
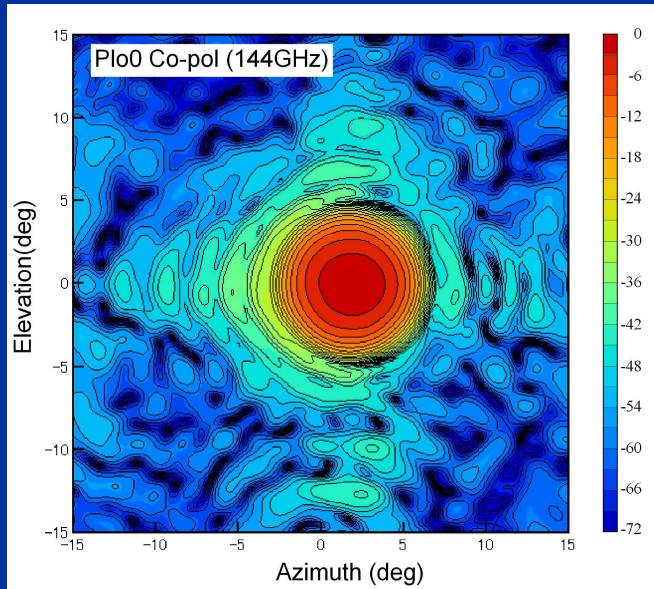
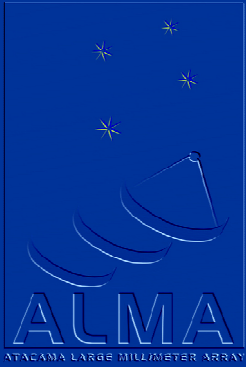
Band 3



Band 7

Band 9

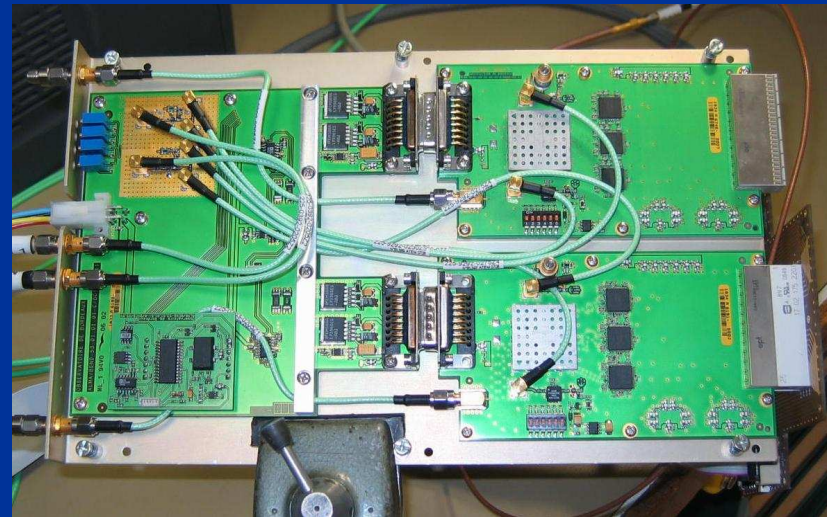
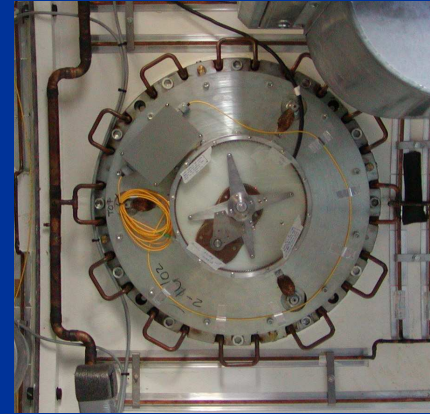
Band 6



Band 4 – ALMA-J



Back End – LO, DTS





Correlator Specifications

Number of antennas	64
Number of IF pairs per antenna	4
Max. sampling rate per IF pair	2 x 4 GHz
Digitizing format	3 bit, 8 level
Correlating format	2 bit, 4 level
Max. delay range	30 km
Channels per IF pair	4096
Autocorrelation channels per baseline	1024
Polarization	Full stokes (4 products)



Correlator Quadrant #1 (of 4)



Complete correlator contains 2912 printed circuit boards and 5200 interface cables; there are more than 20 million solder joints.

Jan 2007 – second quadrant in production + new test correlator completed

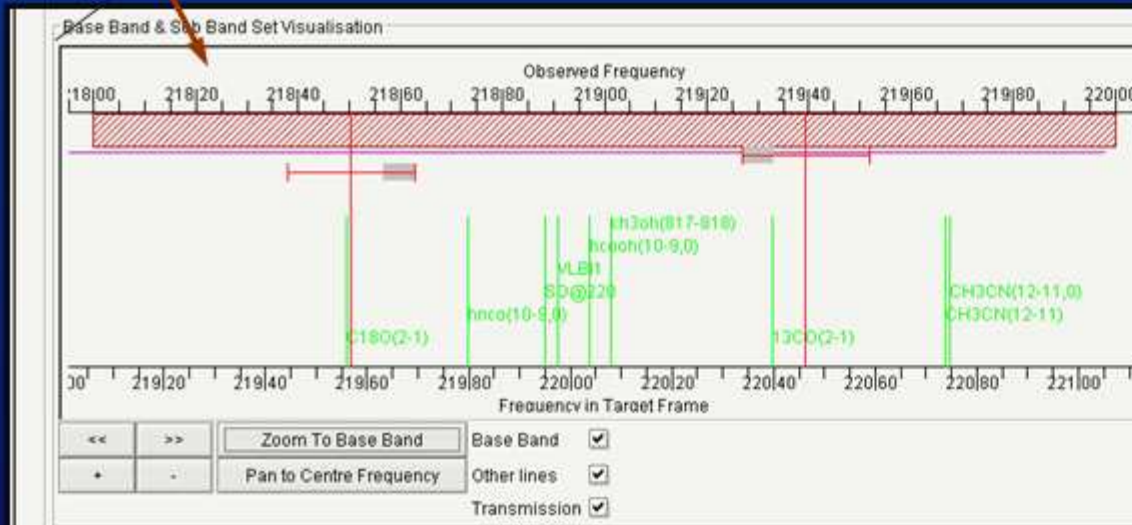
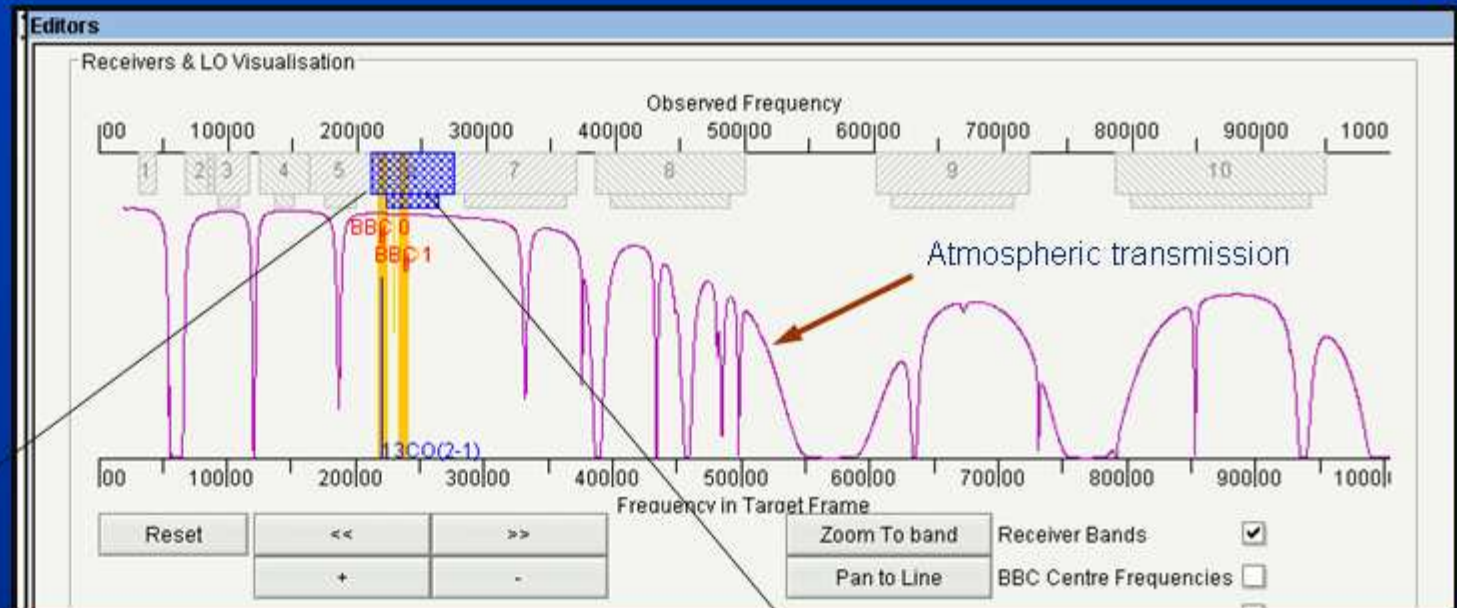


Computing

- The fundamental output of the CIPT will be a ~2M SLOC “end to end” software system running on over 200 computers on 4 continents.
- Difficult distributed development – software engineering practices, travel
- Using CASA as the offline system (also AIVC)

Observing Tool

Band 6 close up showing lines in spectral database and windows on selected lines.



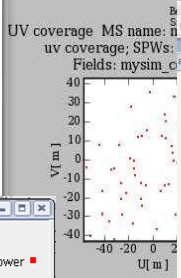
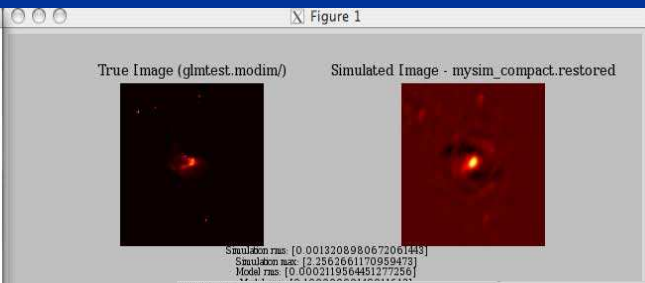
Target source visual representation of correlator setup to observe multiple lines at 1mm Band 6 ($C^{18}O$ 2-1 & ^{13}CO 2-1)



```

xterm
0%...10...20...30...40...50...60...70...80...90...100%
Warning no plotter attached. Attach a plotter to get plots
Reading data...
Time spent reading from disk : 0 sec.
Number of points being plotted : 6
Python Plotting time : 1.407 sec.
Reading data...
Time spent reading from disk : 0 sec.
Number of points being plotted : 166
Python Plotting time : 1.525 sec.

DRSH <> inp almasimmos
inp(almasimmos)
project = 'mysim_compact' # Name of project simulated
modelimage = 'glntest.modim/' # name of an image to simulate visibilities for
complist = '' # componentlist table to simulate visibilities
antennalist = 'almacompact.txt' # antenna position ascii file
direction = 'J2000 17h04m13.0 -42d19m58.0' # mosaic center direction
nmosx = '11' # number of pointings along x
nmosy = '11' # number of pointings along y
pointingspacing = '24arcsec' # spacing in between beams
refdate = '2007/02/05/22:05:00' # Time around which observation
totaltime = '3600s' # total time of observation
integration = '10s' # Time interval for each integration
mode = 'channel' # Type of selection
alg = 'clark' # Algorithm to use for deconvolution
niter = '500' # Number iterations
nchan = '-1' # Number of channels to select
startfreq = '86.0GHz' # Frequency of first channel
chanwidth = '2.0GHz' # Channel width
  
```



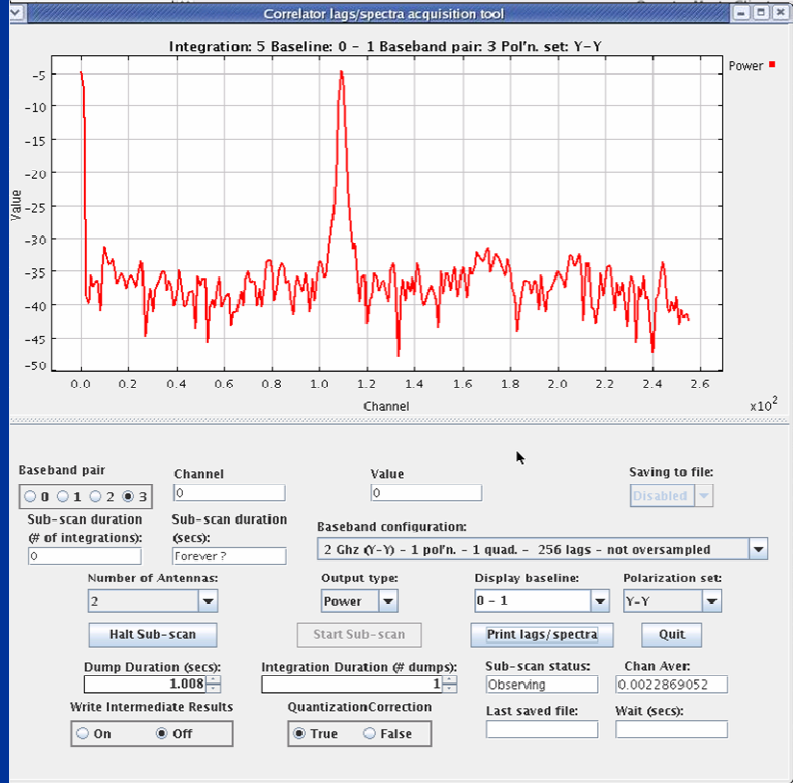
UV coverage MS name: n...
uv coverage; SPWs: ...
Fields: mysim

Image Query

Image Server: Digitized Sky (Version II) at ESO
Image Width (arcmin): 10
Image Height (arcmin): 10

Field Source

Name: []
Source Name: hgc1068 [Resolve Cancel]
Non Sidereal Motion: Solar System Object [Show...]
Ephemers: []
Proper Motion RA: 0.00000 [mas/yr]
Proper Motion Dec: 0.00000 [mas/yr]
Source Coordinates: System: J2000 [Setagecimal display]
RA: 02:42:40.851
Dec: -00:00:49.269
Source Velocity: 0.0 [km/s topo]
Parallax: 0.00000 [mas]
Source Properties: Frequency Flux Diameter
Add Delete
Use Reference:
Visible Magnitude: []
Reference Position (Offset): []
Field Pattern: []
Type: point [Offset checked]
Point: []
Pointing Pattern: RA [arcsec] Dec [arcsec]
80.00000 60.00000
40.00000 30.00000
80.00000 -30.00000
40.00000 60.00000
Add Delete
Show All Hide All



Alma Error Shutdown

AVAILABLE/OI AVAILABLE/OI

per Conn

OK no such container fr. OK

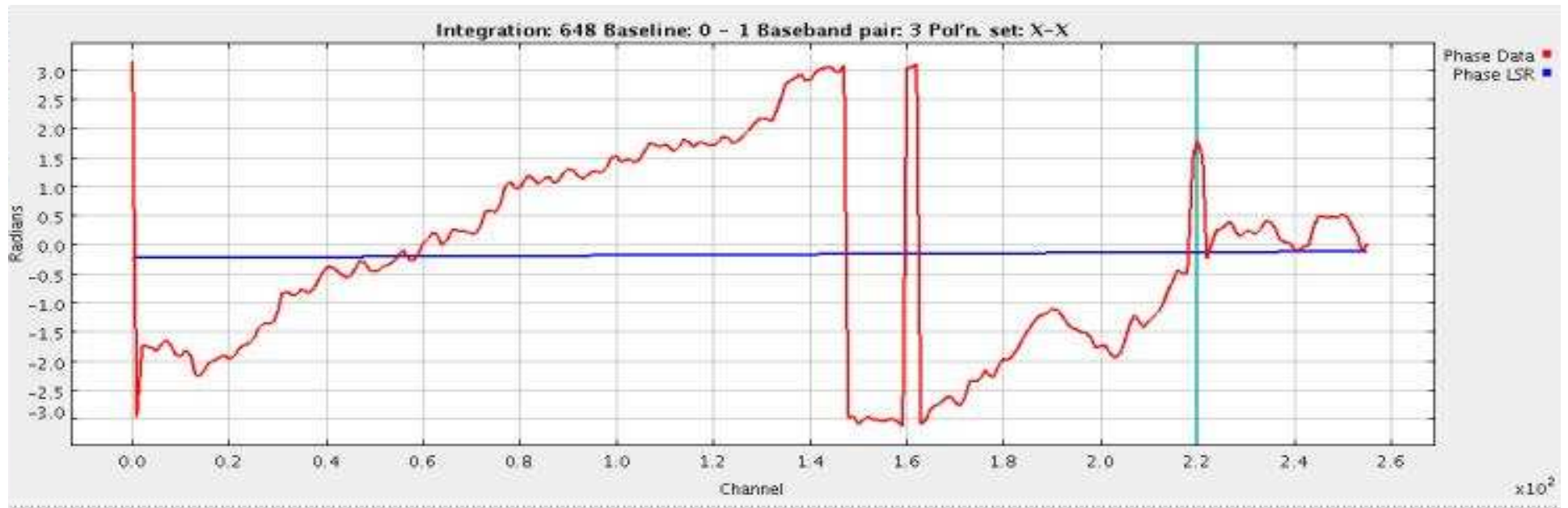
Simulated Events Calendar Requests Log Input

Expected Recently Sent

Expected

First Astronomical Fringes – Mar 2nd 2007





ATF “Second Fringes”, 19:14 hrs UTC June 18th 2007 - Venus.

Configuration **Display**

Baseband configuration:
2 GHz (X-X) - 1 pol'n. - 1 quad. - 256 lags - not oversampled

Configure Basebands:
 0 1 2 3

Sub-scan duration
(# of integrations):
0

Dump Duration (secs):
1.008

Quantization Correction:
 True False

WriteIntermediateResult:
 On Off

Number of Antennas:
2

Sub-scan duration (secs):
Forever

Integration Duration (# dumps):
1

Output data type:
Phase

Save data to file:
Enabled

Start Sub-scan

Halt Sub-scan

Reset Correlator

Refresh Nodes

Time Series Plot

Quit

Sub-scan status:
Observing

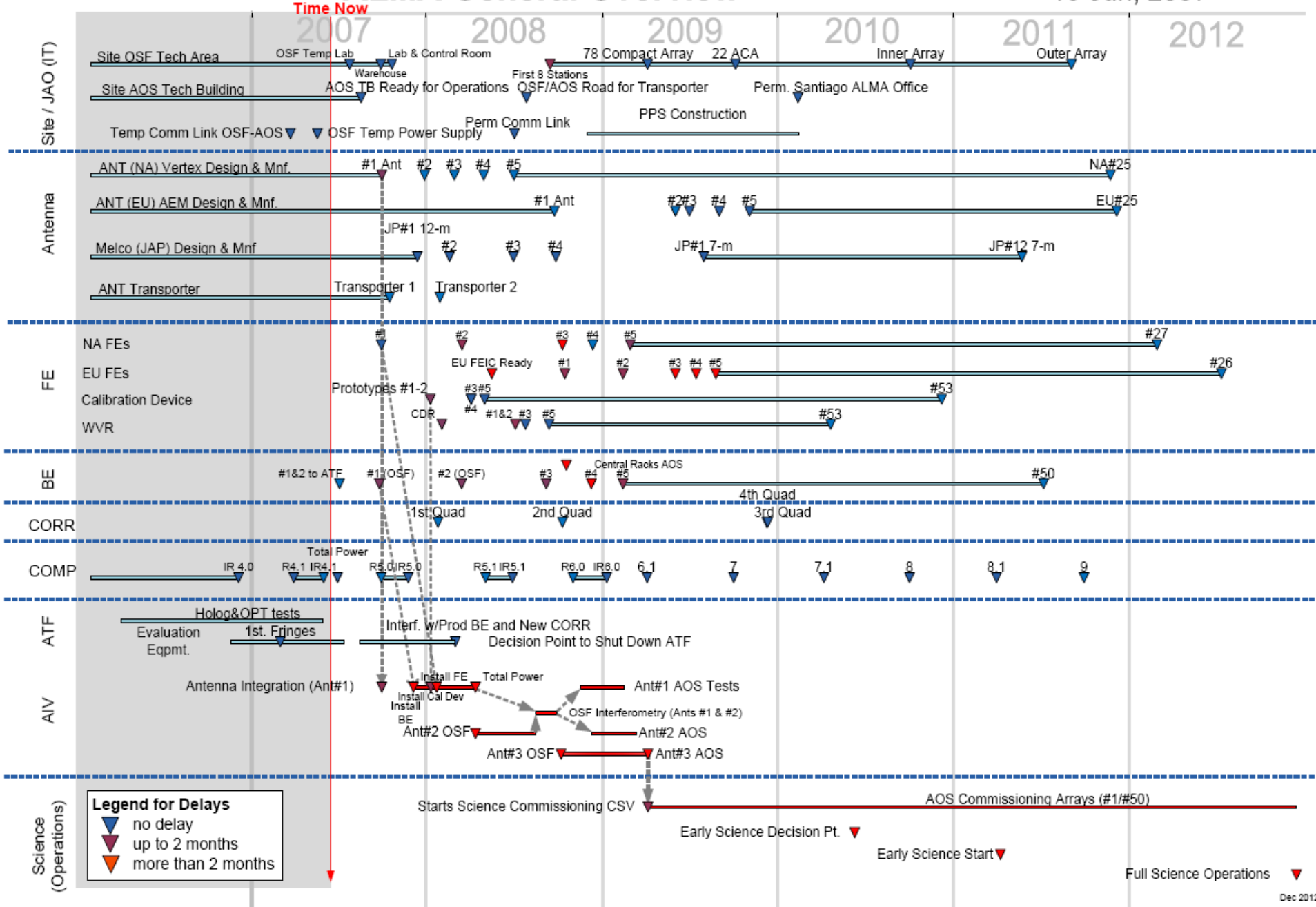
Wait (secs):



Budget

- ALMA concept: mid 90s....
- Original project budget (2002): \$592M
- 2004: rebaselining (scope, budget, sched)
- Budget: 40% (\$224M)↑ N: 64→50
- Complex multi-currency, 10-yr budget
- Issues: power... staffing profile/skills...

ALMA General Overview – Forecast Dates as of 15 Jun, 2007





Schedule

- First fringes: ***ATF Q2 2007 ✓***
- AOS, OSF: ***Complete early 2008.***
- Antennas: ***#1 2007, #2 2007... #66 2011.***
- Front Ends: ***#1, #2 2007, → production.***
- BE/DTS: ***→ production.***
- Correlator: ***Q1 done... Q4 2008; ACA2008.***
- Software: ***R4... AIVC 2007, Ops 2008.***
- Call for Early Science: ***Q1 2010***
- Early Science: ***2011***
- Full Operations: ***04 Sep 2012***

Moving forward....



Japan – ALMA-J

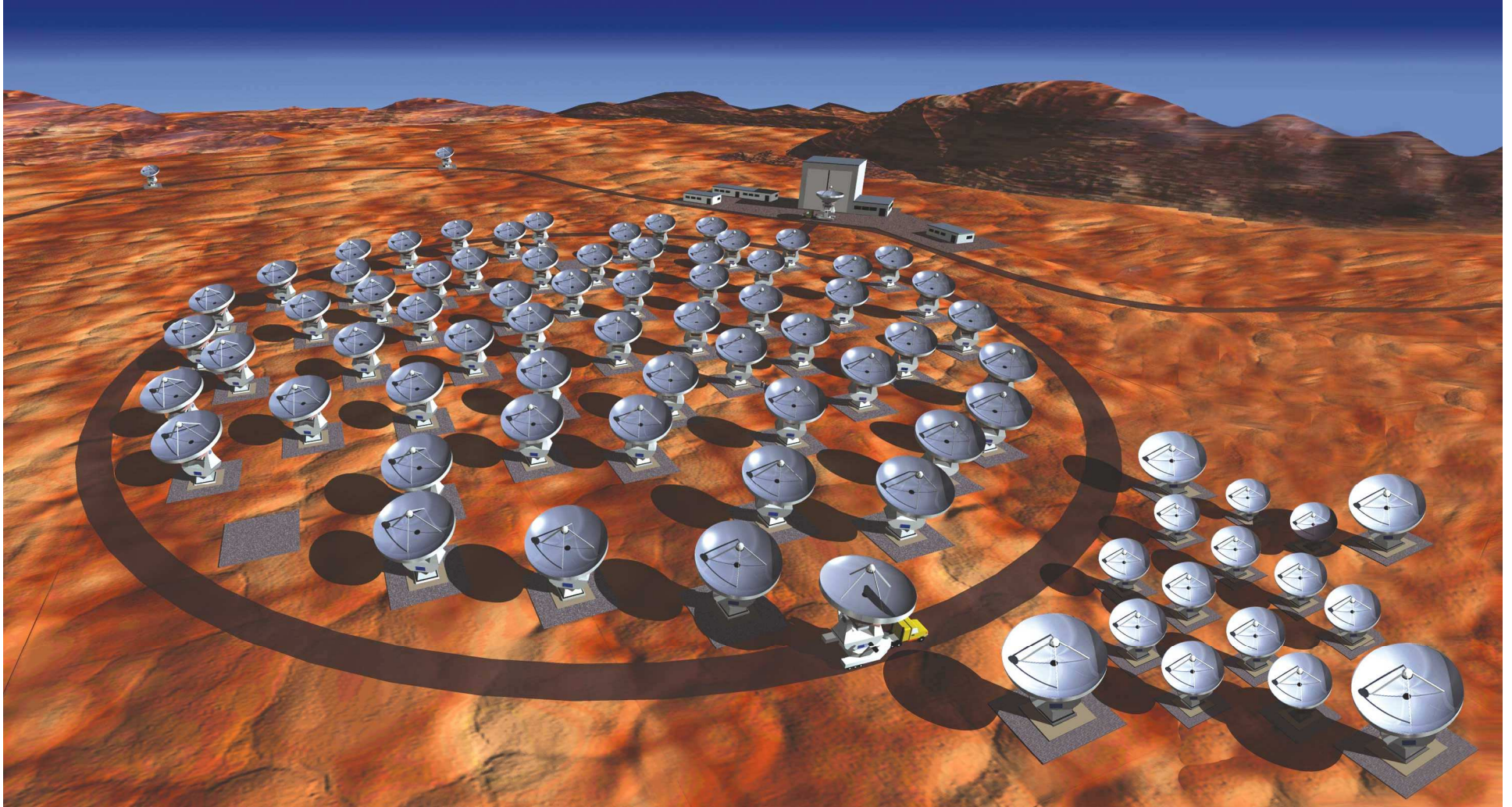
- New partner: Agreement signed between the NSF-ESO-NINS Sept 2004/July 2006.
 - Four additional 12-m antennas (total power)
 - Twelve 7-m diameter antennas in compact configuration: Atacama Compact Array
 - Separate ACA correlator
 - Receiver: Bands 4, 8... 10

Atacama Compact Array – ACA

- Significantly improves low surface brightness sensitivity of ALMA; add precision total power data



ALMA + ACA → Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array



Your proposal here
2010





www.alma.info

The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), an international astronomy facility, is a partnership among Europe, Japan and North America, in cooperation with the Republic of Chile. ALMA is funded in Europe by the European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere, 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).