

ASAC Charges for March, 2008

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. ASAC members represent an important communications link with the scientific community and should be actively and accurately communicating the progress of the Project back to their communities. Accordingly, 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 in person at least twice a year, complemented by bimonthly telecons. ASAC members also have a responsibility to monitor scientific developments in the field and report back on those that have implications for ALMA. Reports of the ASAC's deliberations will be made in writing to the Board by the Chairperson of the ASAC following each face-to-face Committee meeting, on a schedule specified in advance by the Board, and may include comments on urgent scientific matters other than those specifically charged by the Board. The Project Scientist serves on the Committee *ex officio*.

Specific Charges for March, 2008:

1. Assess the preparation of the ALMA real time, observing, and off-line software for early science. In particular, review the impact of the recommendations of the May 2007 software review and the schedule for the next two years.
2. Review the Calibration Plan and scientific aspects of the plans for Assembly, Integration, Verification testing and for Commissioning. Being mindful of the finite resources (human, financial) available, are changes necessary or desirable for scientific reasons to the plans being implemented?
3. The ALMA Board has charged the project to develop a long term ALMA Development Plan in consultation with the international astronomy community. The plan should set out the scientific context for transformational science with ALMA in 2020, in the era of for example JWST, ELTs and SKA, and the developments necessary to achieve this vision. The ALMA Board views this plan as having the utmost strategic priority, and is coordinating its development across the entire ALMA partnership.

The process of generating the ALMA Development Plan should be led by the JAO Project Scientist and the ASAC (with support from the Executives). The first stage (to be completed by the end of 2008) will involve an examination of the scientific drivers by a number of specialist sub-groups, representative of the wider astronomical community, covering the whole field.

In time for the Board's April 2008 meeting, the ASAC should identify the scientific themes on which sub-groups will work (for example: star formation, galaxy formation etc) and appoint appropriate Chairs for each subgroup.

In order to allow time for the preparation of a response from the Project, it would be very much appreciated if the ASAC's report could be made available by no later than March 13th.