

ATACAMA LARGE MILLIMETER ARRAY (ALMA)

ALMA Project Progress Report

Proposals for the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA) production antenna procurement were received April 1, 2004. Review of the proposals submitted to AUI / NRAO is being conducted among three committees: the Joint Technical Evaluation Team (JTET), the Business Evaluation Committee (BEC), and the Contract Selection Committee (CSC). The JTET is composed of personnel from NRAO and ESO and is conducting a technical review of all proposals. The BEC is conducting business due diligence and reviewing the business and management aspects of the proposals submitted to AUI / NRAO. Finally, the CSC will receive the reports of the JTET and BEC, open the financial offers, and make a recommendation to the AUI President and the NRAO Director. A technical Working Group has been established jointly by the NRAO Contract Selection Committee (CSC) and ESO Contract Awards Committee (CAC) to evaluate a small number of remaining technical issues with each of the proposed antennas. The group is chaired by Dave Woody and includes North American and European experts. Final negotiations and contract award are anticipated in October 2004 following National Science Foundation and ALMA Board approval.

The Japan Negotiating Team, a committee of the ALMA Board, and representatives of the Japanese National Institutes of Natural Science (NINS) have reached a draft agreement with ESO and the National Science Foundation concerning the construction of the Enhanced ALMA.

While the search continues for an ALMA Project Manager, NRAO Director K.Y. Lo has assumed the role of Interim North American ALMA Project Manager. Dr. Lo will

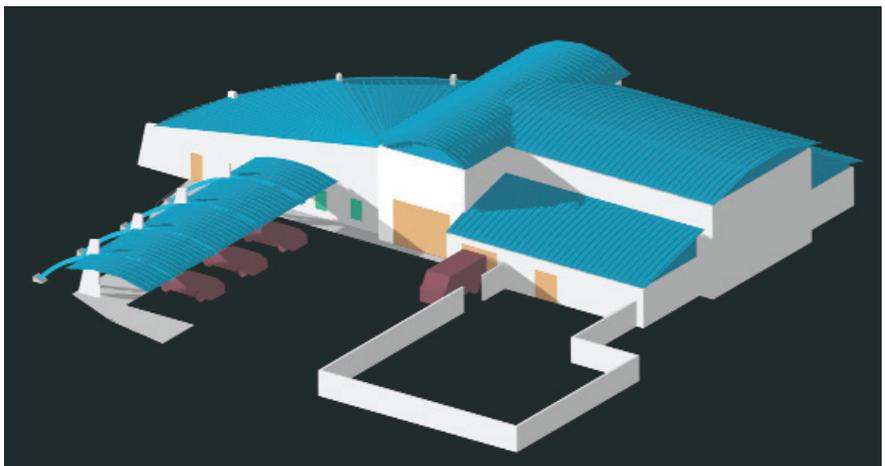
remain in this position until a new Project Manager has been hired and arrives in Charlottesville.

A contractor has been selected for the initial construction of the ALMA Array Operations Site (AOS) technical building. The foundation package includes the necessary excavation and the construction of the building foundation. Work will start as soon as NSF approval is received for the contract. A contract has also been negotiated for the outfitting of the temporary ALMA office in Santiago, Chile and will be executed after NSF approval is received. The office will house the JAO and Executive staff located in Santiago.

During the last week of September, two key ALMA meetings took place in Charlottesville: the ALMA Science Advisory Committee (ASAC) and a meeting of all ALMA IPT leads and their deputies. The IPT meeting focused on completing the Integrated Project Schedule.

A successful review of the Local Oscillator (LO) was held in early September in Tucson. The review focused on the programmatic status of the LO and insured that all required steps are in place to complete the pre-production prototypes.

M. D. Rafal



Artist's concept of the ALMA Array Operations Site (AOS) technical building.