



## ALMA BOARD MEETING November 14-16, 2018

### PUBLIC SUMMARY

The ALMA Board convened at SCO between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of November, with the following attendees:

Chair	Toshikazu Onishi (EA)
Vice-Chair	Linda Tacconi (EU) <i>*on video</i>
Board Members	Richard Green (NA) Xavier Barcons (EU) Saku Tsuneta (EA) Willy Benz (EU) James Di Francesco (NA) Rafael Bachiller (EU) Tony Beasley (NA) Karin Öberg (NA) You-Hua Chu (EA) Luis Chavarría (CL)
Board Assessors	Joseph Pesce (NA) Andreas Kaufer (EU) Satoru Iguchi (EA)
Observers	Donna O'Malley (NSF) Bert Hawkins (NRAO)
JAO	Sean Dougherty (ALMA Director) Stuartt Corder (ALMA Deputy Director) John Carpenter (Observatory Scientist) Frank Ruseler (Head of Administration) Norikazu Mizuno (Head of Engineering) Elizabeth Humphreys (Interim Head of Science Operations) Ivan Lopez (Safety Manager) Rafael Mena (Human Resources Manager)
Executives	Paulina Bocaz (AUI Legal representative in Chile) Seiichi Sakamoto (NAOJ Legal Representative in Chile) Leonardo Testi (ESO ALMA Programme Manager) Phil Jewell (NRAO ALMA Program Manager) Álvaro González (NAOJ ALMA Program Manager)
ASAC	Stephen White (ASAC Chair)
Board's Secretary	Alejandra Voigt (ALMA Executive Officer)

## **PUBLIC SUMMARY**

The ALMA Board held its November 2018 meeting, at the Santiago Central Office (SCO), Chile.

The Board's Chair, Dr. Onishi, welcomed the new Board Assessor appointed by NSF, Joseph Pesce and expressed the Board's appreciation to Rafael Bachiller, who was attending his last Board meeting as an ESO member.

Dr. Onishi also welcomed Alvaro Gonzalez, the new East Asia ALMA Program Manager and Stephen White, the new ASAC Chair, who were attending their first Board meeting; and Donna O'Malley from the NSF and Bert Hawkins from NRAO, who attended the meeting as NA observers.

In addition to other matters, during the meeting the Board:

1. Approved the 2019 ALMA Budget;
2. Noted the 5-year forward look for planning purposes;
3. Reappointed Kotaro Kohno and appointed Anne Dutrey and Mario Tafalla as ALMA Science Advisory Committee (ASAC) members for the next three years;
4. Concurred with the provisional schedule and scope proposed for the 2019 ALMA International Visiting Committee that will assess the operational and scientific status of ALMA;
5. Concurred with the Chilean Government's request for collaboration in order to create a Chilean Archive, as part of the Chilean Data Observatory initiative.

### **ALMA Overview**

The Board noted the presentations given by the ALMA Director and Deputy Director, regarding the latest activities, achievements and challenges at ALMA since April 2018, including:

- The excellent scientific performance, both regarding the PI observation efficiencies and the publications rate (over 1,000 publications), showing outstanding scientific results;
- Data delivery rates, which are rapidly reaching the target of 90% data for standard modes being delivered within 30 days;
- A record number of proposals, approaching 2,000, for Cycle 6 that pose some operational challenges for the review process;
- The major milestone of having all 66 antennas available for science at beginning of cycle 6;
- Infrastructure essentially complete, with the opening of the new Residencia earlier in the year and the Multi-purpose enclosed sports facility currently under construction;
- The near flawless start of Cycle 6.

## **Scientific Matters**

The Board noted the presentations given by the Observatory Scientist, the Chair of the Board's Science Committee and the Chair of the ASAC, regarding:

- Number of submitted proposals and the total time requested, both of which continue to increase;
- Oversubscription, which increased in all regions;
- Four large programs that were selected for Cycle 6 (446 h on 12m + 46 h on 7m);
- New capabilities and 300 hrs more observing time coming in cycle 7, i.e. Band 7 on 12-16 km baselines, spectral scans, solar continuum, polarization and passive phasing.
- July 2019 APRC for Cycle 7 to be held in Atlanta, which will have an increased number of panels from 18 to 25.
- Discussions ongoing for new approaches in the ALMA Proposal Review to reduce potential unconscious biases.
- Supplemental call of proposals for Cycle 7 ALMA Compact Array, with a pilot distributed proposal peer review process.
- The ASAC feedback regarding the scientific and technical performance of the observatory.
- The importance of advertising remarkable high frequency observations to encourage more of these proposals from the communities.

## **Financial Matters**

The ALMA Board noted the reports of the ALMA Budget Committee regarding the 2018 budget execution and projections to the end of the year and the long-term planning. The Board approved the 2019 ALMA Budget, for both on and off-site operations and development, and noted the 5-yr forward look for planning purposes

## **Safety**

The Board noted the JAO Safety Manager's presentation regarding the latest events since April 2018. The Board expressed its appreciation to the JAO for the substantial progress that had resulted from its efforts over the past years, and noted the resilience of the OSF and the response of the staff in the face of very extreme weather in mid-2018.

## **Human Resources**

The Board noted the JAO Human Resources Manager's presentation regarding the JAO HR status, statistics and key performance indicators and especially welcomed the ongoing initiatives regarding diversity and inclusion at the JAO.

## **2019 ALMA International Visiting Committee**

The Board concurred with the preliminary schedule and scope for the 2019 ALMA International Visiting Committee's assessment, stressing the importance of the appraisal, particularly on ALMA's performance towards accomplishing its original and new science goals.

## **Chilean ARC Initiative**

The Board congratulated the Chilean authorities on their remarkable new Data Observatory project. The Board proudly accepted to collaborate and initiate the discussions for an agreement between the Chilean Government and the ALMA Parties to clearly define the boundary conditions, scope, technical details and operational principles that have to be adhered to in order to establish and operate a Chilean ARC, the first milestone for the Data Observatory Project. By this future agreement, ALMA and Chile would enable the necessary symmetry for sharing the benefits and scientific capabilities of the existing ARCs, commensurate with the ALMA Trilateral Agreement and Management Agreement.

## **ALMA Development Program Update**

The ALMA Board noted the presentations by the ALMA Deputy Director on behalf of the AMT regarding the status of the ALMA Development Program. This covered the on-going projects and studies, the projects that will be submitted for approval in the near future and a summary of the scope of upcoming calls for proposals within the three regions.

The Board also noted the update on the status of the ALMA Development Roadmap Implementation Plan that will define the processes to accomplish the highest-priority directions for the Development Program as identified in the ALMA's long-term vision.

## **Next ALMA Board's Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Board has unanimously designated Dr. Karin Öberg, Associate Professor of Astronomy at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, to be the Board's Chair for the next two years. Professor Toshikazu Onishi, Professor at the Department of Physical Science of the Osaka Prefecture University, has accepted to be the Vice Chair during 2019 and 2020.