



ALMA BOARD MEETING April 9-11, 2025

PUBLIC SUMMARY

The ALMA Board convened in Tokyo, Japan, between April 9-11, 2025, with the following attendees:

Board Chair	James Di Francesco (NA)
Board Vice-Chair	Toshikazu Onishi (EA)
Board Members	Daniel Weselka (EU)
	Eduardo Ibar (CL)
	Joe Pesce (NA)*
	Karin Öberg (NA)
	Linda Taconi (EU)
	Mamoru Doi (EA)
	Tom Ray (EU)
	Tony Beasley (NA)
	Toru Yamada (EA)
	Xavier Barcons (EU)
Board Assessors	Andreas Kaufer (EU)
	R. Chris Smith (NA)*
	Satoru Iguchi (EA)
Board Secretary	Catalina Margulis
JAO	Sean Dougherty (ALMA Director)
	Norikazu Mizuno (ALMA Deputy Director of Operations)
	Álvaro González (ALMA Deputy Director of Development)
	Cristián Puentes (Head of Administration)*
	Iván López (Health, Safety and Environmental Manager)*
	John Carpenter (Observatory Scientist)
	Jorge Ibsen (Head of Computing)*
	Rafael Mena (Human Resources Manager)*
	Sergio Martin (Head of Science Operations)*
	Nicolás Lira (acting Education and Public Outreach Manager)*
Executives	Adam Cohen (AUI President)
	Elizabeth Humphreys (ESO ALMA Programme Manager)

	Itziar de Gregorio (ESO Representative in Chile)*
	Misato Fukagawa (NAOJ ALMA Program Manager)
	Paulina Bocaz (AUI/NRAO Representative in Chile)
	Phil Jewell (NRAO ALMA Program Manager)
ASAC Chair	Stefanie Milam
Observers	Bunyo Hatsukade (EA)*
	Chin-Fei Lee (NA)
	Crystal Brogan (NA)*
	George Kosugi (EA)
	Jarle Brinchmann (EU)*
	María Diaz Trigo (EU)
AMT standing observer	Martin Zwaan (EU)
Presenter	Shun Ishii (NAOJ)

*Attended remotely

PUBLIC SUMMARY

The ALMA Board held its April 2025 meeting in Tokyo, Japan.

The Board's Chair, James Di Francesco, welcomed all Board members, assessors and attendees.

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

1. Reviewed the status of ALMA
2. Reviewed the status of Cycle 11
3. Reviewed the status of Cycle 12 call for proposals
4. Received the ASAC report from the ASAC Chair
5. Appointed 8 WMAC Members
6. Reviewed the status of the Wideband Sensitivity Upgrade
7. Approved the Total Power GPU Spectrometer project and the AOS-OSF Fiber Optics project
8. Received the ABC Report from the ABC Chair
9. Approved the carry-forward request

ALMA Overview and Cycle 11 update

The Board noted the presentation given by the ALMA Director, regarding the status of ALMA, highlighting the following matters:

- Cycle 11 being the best cycle start in ALMA history

- High-frequency observations hours are growing
- WSU Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) has been formed
- Budget risk due to macroeconomic changes
- Other JAO considerations, regarding Health, Safety & Environment – related matters.

The Board noted the Cycle 11 update presentation given by the Deputy Director of Operations, including:

- Status of Cycle-11:
 - Most successful cycle to date
 - All top-level KPIs achieved and stretch goals met, namely QA0 pass hours, antenna availability, configuration schedules and data-delivery performance.
 - Excellent rate of observing
 - Operational optimization and enhancement through Objectives and Key Results (OKR):
 - Optimized February maintenance and routine operations
 - Prioritization of high-frequency observations when weather conditions prevail
 - Proactive risk management and mitigation approach for obsolescence
 - Challenges, including increased pressure on staff from WSU-related tasks
 - Operational risks, including power generation, cybersecurity, and obsolescence
- Cycle 12 call for proposals opened on March 20, 2025.

Scientific Matters

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

- ALMA Science highlights
- JAO actions on the November 2024 Science Committee Report
- Assessment of ALMA's scientific capabilities and of scientific impact of the ALMA Development Program.

Development Matters

The Board noted the presentation given by Andreas Kaufer, the Chair of the newly created WSU Committee, on the outcome of the first WSU Committee meeting that took place on April 9, 2025.

- The meeting focused on the WMAC and the WSU review plans
- Recommendation for WMAC members appointments
- WMAC next steps

After deliberation of the range of expertise required, the Board approved the appointment of the following members to serve on the WMAC for a three-year period, until April 30, 2028:

- Colin Lonsdale (Chair)
- Kotaro Kohno
- Raymond Blundell
- Takao Nakagawa
- Janice Houston
- David Silva
- Norbert Holtkamp
- Luca Stringhetti
- Jessica Dempsey

The Board noted the presentation by the Deputy Director of Development, regarding the status of the WSU, including:

- Definition of WSU Scope and top-level milestones
- WSU resourcing plan overview
- Upcoming system-level reviews
- WSU development projects

The Board approved two developing projects, namely: Total Power GPU Spectrometer project and the AOS-OSF Fiber Optics.

Financial Matters

The ALMA Board noted the report of the ALMA Budget Committee on the 2024 budget execution and financial results and projections for 2025, under the current macroeconomic circumstances.

The Board was updated on current risks and challenges for the 2025 budget, including increased pressure in currency values and energy prices.

Finally, the Board approved the 2024 carry-forward request to be spent within Q1 2025.