



ALMA PS Report

Author: Hills
Date: 2007-11-30

Project Scientist's Report – ALMA Board

Richard Hills

October 15th – November 29th 2007



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1 Activities at ATF

Science IPT is participating strongly in the work at the ATF focused on debugging real-time software and systems. Progress in establishing reliable operation and completing the basic interferometer system is certainly being made, but the slow rate of progress remains a concern to the science team members involved.

2 Commissioning

The process of appointing commission scientists to be based in Chile is well underway in all the partners. There have been good responses to advertisements in both Europe and NA, each of which have two posts available, and short lists are being drawn up. NAOJ has arranged for a tenure-track post to be made available for a similar role. I am optimistic that we will have all these posts filled with good people by Q2 of 2008.

Further work on the Commissioning and Science Verification Plan is being carried out in preparation for the ASAC meeting in February.

3 Technical

The Science IPT is supporting reviews on many key items, including the acceptance of the first Front-End and the ACA 12m Antennas.

A full report on the optimization of the Y+ array (the high resolution configurations) has been completed and the imaging properties of these are being investigated.

Testing of the beta-release of CASA both by members of the Science team and by members of the scientific advisory committees continues.

Detailed investigations of other technical issues such as polarization requirements, RF membrane losses and sideband separation continue to be carried out as needed.

4 ASAC

The ASAC met by telecon on 7th Nov and discussed commissioning and planning. Arrangements for the face-to-face meeting in Chile on Feb 1st and 2nd are underway.

The Board should note that Andrew Blain's term expires in January 2008 and those of John Bally and Jose Cernicharo end in July 2008.