

MARCH 2013

SCIENCE OPERATIONS (*Lars-Ake Nyman, Paola Andreani, John Hibbard, Ken Tatematsu*)

Cycle 1

CSV, ICT and Engineering will have priority during the next months to work on commissioning of Cycle 1 capabilities and improvements to infrastructure and overall system stability. During this time, Early Science observing will proceed at a lower priority and Cycle 1 has been extended to end on January 31, 2014. The users have been informed via a news item in the Science Portal.

Cycle 2 Preparations

Preparations of Cycle 2 user documents and software tools (in particular the OT) are ongoing. Because of the ongoing commissioning work on Cycle 1 capabilities, there is little progress on commissioning of Cycle 2 capabilities, and apart from more antennas and receiver bands, no additional capabilities may be offered. Cycle 2 capabilities have to be demonstrated before May 31 to be included in the call.

Face-to-face meetings

The SciOpsIPT held their quarterly f2f meeting at IRAM in Grenoble on March 25-27, including a meeting with the managers of the EU ARC nodes. In particular science operations policies, Cycle 1 operations, preparations for Cycle 2, policies for ALMA staff access to proprietary data, and preparations for the April ICT meeting were discussed.

The Archive Working Group held their yearly f2f meeting in Mitaka on March 12-14, and the Observing Tool Working Group held their yearly f2f meeting in Edinburgh on March 18-22. These meetings focus on software status, feature planning, testing, and requirements.

DSO Hiring

The internal hiring process to replace Kengo Tachihara (who left for a position at Nagoya University) has started. The hiring of the data analyst and one of the two science archive content managers are still on hold due to the budget situation.

EA ARC

EA ARC Review by the Advisory Committee for NAOJ Radio Astronomy Division was carried out on March 4-6.

Ken Tatematsu, ARC Manager, reported the status of Cycles 0 and 1, and the prospect for Cycle 2 in the ALMA special session in the semiannual meeting of the Astronomical Society of Japan, on Mar 22.

EU ARC

Generation of Scheduling Blocks for the first three observing batches of ALMA Cycle
Pipeline cluster configuration, production of usage guide
Participation in tests for AQUA and Shift Log Tool and the OT DDT version
OT development is moving towards Cycle 2: OTWG meeting in Edinburgh
Various activities related to single dish data reduction and combination of ACA/single dish/main array data
Archive Scientist's f2f meeting in Mitaka, Japan
ARC Coordinating Committee face-to-face meeting in Grenoble

NA ARC

The NAASC supported data reduction visits from five Cycle0 investigators. A CASA

workshop was held in Charlottesville Feb28-Mar1, with ~20 participants. Batch 3 SBs were generated for NA supported Cycle 1 projects. Improvements were made to the helpdesk fail-over process. A large effort was devoted to pre-release testing for CASA 4.1 and planning for CASA 4.2, as well as on ALMA pipeline testing. Notified Cycle0 users of CASA shadowing issues and new solar system object flux models. Al Wootten provided two turnos of AoD support.

Final preparations were made for a NA ALMA Development workshop and the “2013 Rocks” science meeting to be held in April. Plans were made for Cycle2 documentation and outreach materials and a video explaining “Largest Angular Scale” was produced by NRC staff.