

Charges to ASAC for report at the April 2010 Board Meeting:

1. Review the draft document describing the ALMA Proposal Review Process and provide comments to the Board.
2. The Project is investigating how to make cost savings that would restore the contingency funding to a satisfactory level. Reductions in operating costs are also being considered. In the event that these savings turn out to have implications for either the scientific performance or the operational efficiency of ALMA, the ASAC will be asked to make recommendations on the relative priorities and cost-effectiveness of the proposals.
3. Discuss the revisions to Scientific Requirements and Specifications and make a recommendation to the Board on approval.
4. Comment on the analysis that is being prepared on the Development Fund items and on which of these might be considered for a first Call for Proposals.
5. Continue to monitor the readiness of the ALMA software system. In view of the ASAC's most recent report it is clear that the observing tool and the archive continue to be important topics and that the ASAC will also have comments on the overall schedule for the release of the core software packages that the Project is going to deliver to them. The data analysis software deserves particular attention: ASAC should examine the capabilities of the latest release of CASA, and review what further enhancements are planned before the start of Early Science.
6. Continue to review the progress and schedule of the AIV/CSV process, with particular attention to the risks, risk-mitigation and prioritization.
7. Review the plans for carrying out the initial processing of the Early Science data (e.g. calibration, map-making and quality checking) and delivering it to the user community. Of particular interest are the questions of a) whether there will be sufficient resources (especially staffing) to cover this in the period before the pipeline is ready and b) what level of quality assurance is appropriate.

Other ASAC activities which are not formal charges from the Board.

8. Community sounding on expectations for early science, and ALMA information resources for the general community.
9. ASAC will continue to look for ways in which ALMA construction and operations might be more environmentally friendly, especially in terms of energy use (without compromising science). (Issues of energy use are discussed in the Marshall et al. Decadal Survey white paper at http://low-energy-astro.physics.ucsb.edu/Marshall_Energy_APP_EPO_IPP_FFP_DEM.pdf)