



Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array
In search of our Cosmic Origins



NAOJ
National Astronomical
Observatory of Japan



Raw Data Release Pilot Programme

Internal Memo Number: ALMA-SSG-ISOPT-002.A
Remijan, Humphreys, Nagai and Zwaan

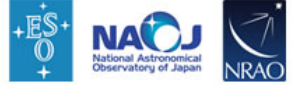
Integrated Science Operations Team
April 2018



- As a result of the November ALMA Board Meeting, iSOPT given the action to develop a raw data release pilot programme
- Goals:
 - evaluate the effectiveness and feasibility of delivering raw data to PIs
 - specifically to evaluate the possible impact to the ARC and ARC Nodes
- Design programme to mimic a full raw data release policy as much as possible



Key Points



- Duration
 - 12 months starting with Cycle 6
- Size
 - 100 MOUSes from all Executives, PIs randomly selected, cover a range of observing modes
- Location
 - Each ARC must participate in the program to test the impact to their communities
- No new requirements will be made to existing software to perform the pilot study

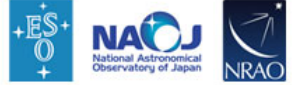


- iSOpT assessment
 - Impact on Operations
 - Helpdesk tickets
 - Face-to-face support requests
 - Time needed to stage the data
 - Fraction of PIs taking up the offer
- IST assessment
 - Overall scientific impact of the programme





Success Criteria

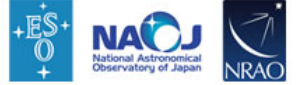


- Measure of operational load versus overall scientific impact and overall PI satisfaction (determined via a user survey)





Concerns



- Wrong results get into the literature, affecting community confidence in ALMA
- Unlevel playing field for expert vs novice users
- Releasing raw data is a break with one of the pillars of the ALMA Operations model



Concerns

- ARCs do not have sufficient staff to handle helpdesk tickets and face-to-face support caused by the pilot
 - Impact on other ARC duties & QA2 data delivery
- Staging raw data for pilot programme could be costly in staff time
- If pilot is successful, and programme is implemented fully, cost in developer time
 - Potential delays to other capabilities

