



NORTH AMERICAN ARC
ALMA Regional Center

North American
ALMA Science
Center



NAASC & NA ALMA Development Highlights

NAASC Memo #

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ABSTRACT

This memo provides brief highlights of recent activities at the NAASC and in the North American ALMA Development program for the ANASAC Face-to-Face meeting on 16-17 September 2013.

1 Overall Highlights

- An agreement was reached with the Chilean local labor union on September 7th, ending the strike that began on August 21st. Operations will restart the week of September 9th.
- 67 ALMA publications have now appeared based on CSV or Cycle 0 Early Science data, approximately equally distributed by region
- Several ALMA results have been highlighted with press releases (see www.nrao.edu)
- The data reduction pipeline is in commissioning and will be used in parallel with manual reduction with CASA for Cycle 1 data
- The first 4 Cycle 1 data sets have been shipped to PIs (3 to NA PIs)
- Preparations for Cycle 2 Early Science are progressing well; proposal call dates are on schedule
- At the recent calls, 9 new Development Study Proposals and 8 Project Proposals were received

2 Cycle 1 Support Highlights

- Proposals: NA had 69 high priority projects selected for observing for Cycle 1
- Phase II support: Most Phase II products (scheduling blocks) have been generated and approved (exceptions: total power and extended configuration projects)
- Data Reduction: 10 C1 data sets have been processed; 3 passed QA2 and have been delivered to PIs.
- Visitors: 11 visitors have visited the NAASC for data reduction since January (we encourage more visits)
- Pipeline: The tiger team has expedited pipeline development, which is now in commissioning
- Helpdesk: CASA offline helpdesk tickets are processed as received.
- Commissioning & Science Verification: The NAASC has sent several of its most experienced staff for extended visits to Chile to expedite commissioning; will continue this through 2014.

3 Cycle 2 Preparation Highlights

- Cycle 2 Announcement & Process Dates:
 - Pre-announcement: expected this week
 - Call for Proposals: October 24
 - Proposal Deadline: December 5
 - Panel Review: March 10-14, 2014 (Toronto)
- Documentation & Tool updates (project-wide unless noted)
 - Primer update (Canadian NA ARC node)
 - Proposer's Guide & Technical Handbook
 - Observing Tool (& testing)
- Value-added Efforts
 - Community-Day Events
 - 5 planned before end of the calendar year (Howard, DPS Meeting, Goddard, UC-Irvine, UWisc)
 - Video tutorials (w/ Canadian ARC node)
 - SimALMA

4 NA ALMA Development Program Highlights

- 3 Major NA Development Projects are currently active from the previous proposal call
 - ALMA Phasing Project (millimeter-wave VLBI phasing)
 - Fiber Optic Link (OSF to Calama, replaces lower bandwidth microwave link)
 - Band 5 Warm Cartridge Assembly (in collaboration with EU)
- New Development Study Proposals received at July 12, 2013 deadline
 - 9 proposals received (8 PIs, 17 institutions, 5 NRAO PIs, 4 external, includes one from Taiwan, one from NRC-Herzberg)
 - \$1.2M requested, \$1M available, \$200k cap per proposal
- New Development Project Proposals received at August 16, 2013 deadline
 - 8 Proposals received, 32 PIs/Co-Is from 11 institutions including 5 US, 3, Canadian, 1 Taiwanese
 - \$7.5M requested from \$4.5M pool, w/ \$1.5M cap per proposal.
- Studies are out for review by external panel; Projects soon to be out.