V119a Update on ALMA Operations and Development Program - Autumn 2019

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In this presentation, we will offer an update on ALMA Operations and Development Program.

Operations: ALMA Cycle 6 observations continue with some slight delays due to several technical and weather issues since the start of the cycle in October 2018. The array was reconfigured for long baselines observations in May 2019.

Development: NAOJ is collaborating in the development of receivers for bands 1 (led by ASIAA) and 2 (led by ESO), and the ACA spectrometer (led by KASI). Around 20 units of band 1 receivers have been produced towards the MRR meeting in 2019. The ALMA Board approved in April 2019 a joint proposal by ESO and NAOJ to go ahead with the Phase 1 of the Band 2 receiver construction. Six cartridges will be built and tested. NAOJ will contribute the optics production. The ACA spectrometer is also progressing towards CDMR in Summer 2019.

Future Planning: The discussion of the implementation of the ALMA Development Roadmap is starting in ALMA Management for the upgrade of ALMA towards new top level Science Goals in the new decade. An ALMA Archive Review was held at ESO, in Garching (Germany), in May 2019 with positive results and the request to consider how to improve the Archive to increase its scientific impact and legacy value, as stated in the ALMA Development Roadmap.