

V111a Update on ALMA Operations and Development Program - Autumn 2020

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

Operations: Cycle 7 observations, which started in October 2019, and planning of Cycle 8 operations have been heavily affected by the COVID-19 situation worldwide. Due to the spread of the virus in Chile, the ALMA site remains shut down from late March 2020. The Cycle 8 Call for Proposals was originally opened in March as planned, but suspended afterwards due to the impossibility to offer Cycle 8 as expected. An update on the situation and future plans will be presented in this talk. The status of Cycle 7 observations before the site shutdown and data delivery will also be summarized.

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) apart from initial studies in hardware and software. The Band 1 Assembly Integration and Verification (AIV) Project, to integrate all band 1 receivers in the array, started at the ALMA site in March 2020. For band 2 (67-116 GHz), ESO has established a pre-production consortium to design, integrate and test all pre-production units of the receivers. NAOJ will contribute the full receiver optics subsystem. In terms of studies, highlights are in wideband and multibeam receivers.

Future Planning: Planning for the implementation of the ALMA Development Roadmap continues. A Digitizers/Backend/DTS workshop is currently scheduled in Mitaka in October 2020 as part of this planning.