V132a Update on ALMA Operations and Development Program - Autumn 2023

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

Operations: Cycle 9 of ALMA scientific observations started at the beginning of October 2022 and will continue until the end of September 2023. Cycle 10 (from Oct. 2023) Call for Proposal has set yet a new record in terms of requested observing hours by the Community, even though the total number of proposals has been slightly lower than in previous cycles. This presentation will provide an update on the latest situation with respect to the status of Cycle 9 operations and the planning towards Cycle 10.

Development: All Band 1 receivers (35-50 GHz) have been delivered in Chile and are currently undergoing integration into the array towards an anticipated start of scientific observations in March 2024. The ACA Spectrometer has also been undergoing all preparations towards processing the Total Power array data from the beginning of Cycle 10. The first pre-production Band 2 receivers (67-116 GHz), produced by ESO in collaboration with NAOJ, have been integrated in Chile. As these development projects are completed, ALMA2 has formally started in Japan from April 1st, 2023. The development work for the ALMA2030 Data Transmission System progresses, as the planning towards the upgrade of the Band 8 receivers proceeds. Internationally, ALMA continues to define the detailed planning towards the implementation of the Wideband Sensitivity Upgrade (WSU). In this presentation, we will provide an update on the latest situation.