

Update on ALMA Operations - Fall 2026

○小杉 城治¹ 井口 聖¹ 泉 拓磨¹ 廿日出 文洋¹ 南谷 哲宏¹ 杉本 香菜子¹ 石井 峻¹ 菊池 健一¹ ALMA Project team¹ (1.国立天文台)

In this presentation, we report on recent ALMA operations since the last ASJ meeting in March 2026. Cycle 12, which started in October 2025, has progressed quite smoothly in terms of both data acquisition and data delivery. The previous cycle achieved a record number of observing hours, and Cycle 12 has already reached a comparable, or even higher, level over the same period at the time of writing.

Towards the next Cycle 13, the Call for Proposals (CfP) opened on 19 March 2026 and closed on 23 April as scheduled. A web-based ALMA Observing Tool (OT), which replaced the previous desktop-based one, was successfully implemented and used for this CfP without major troubles. New observing capability, Band 2 on the 12-m Array with full polarization for a single pointing, will be offered for Cycle 13. Development of new observing capabilities is temporarily slowed down in order to redirect manpower to the Wideband Sensitivity Upgrade (WSU) preparation. Nevertheless, total of 1843 proposals - the highest number to date - were submitted by the proposal deadline, and the amount of requested observing time for the 12-m Array was also the highest on record. These results clearly show that ALMA still continues to attract considerable interest and high expectations from the astronomical community.