

Proposal for Chilean Participation in ALMA

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1 Introduction

The Chilean-ALMA committee chaired by Diego Mardones was appointed by the chairs of the Astronomy Departments of the UChile, PUC, UConcepcion, and UValparaiso on December 7th, 2010, with the goal of creating a consensual proposal about the Chilean participation in ALMA.

The committee discussed the pros and cons of the proposed mechanisms for the evaluation and ranking of Chilean ALMA observing proposals. The alternatives of creating a separate Chilean ALMA Time Allocation Committee (Chilean TAC) or of participating in the common ALMA International TAC were both deemed viable. The main ideas of this proposal were discussed with the astronomy faculty from the Universities of Chile, Católica de Chile, Concepción, Valparaiso, Andrés Bello, La Serena, Católica del Norte, and Metropolitana de Ciencias de la Educación.

This committee proposes to initially allocate Chilean ALMA time within the ALMA international TAC for three observing periods (cycle 0, cycle 1, cycle 2), as explained below.

A Chilean committee appointed by CONICYT and the Universidad de Chile will be set up to supervise the Chilean time allocation and to nominate all Chilean representatives to ALMA.

2 Universidad de Chile and CONICYT coordination

CONICYT and the Universidad de Chile (UCh) will designate in equal parts a Chilean ALMA Nominating Committee (ChANCo). The ChANCo will be composed of six faculty members from Chilean astronomy institutions, each having at least five years of academic activity in Chilean institutions. The ChANCo composition should seek to broadly represent Chilean astronomy. We recommend two ways to ensure broad representation: (a) Chanco candidates should be proposed by the chair of the respective departments and (b) no one institution should hold a majority of this committee¹.

ChANCo members should be nominated for terms of no more than four years. Half of its members will be renewed every two years. The UCh and CONICYT will select, alternatively, the Chair and co-Chair of the ChANCo every two years.

The ChANCo will nominate all ALMA-related Chilean representatives. This includes all personnel required for the Chilean ALMA Observing Time Allocation, the ALMA Board, the ASAC, and the AMAC. The ChANCo will nominate the Chilean ALMA representatives

¹This committee recommends no more than two members from any given astronomy institution.

by consensus. If no consensus is reached, then the absolute majority vote will be taken. In case of a tie, then the Chair and vice-Chair will jointly decide.

The Chair and co-Chair of the ChANCo will report to CONICYT and the UCh.

CONICYT and the UCh will exercise their legal responsibilities by communicating the Chilean nominations to the three ALMA executives and the Joint ALMA Observatory (JAO). The UCh will be formally responsible for nominating 62.5% of the Chilean ARP members, including the APRC and Director's Council member; CONICYT will be responsible for nominating 37.5% of the Chilean ARP members, and the ASAC, AMAC, and ALMA Board representatives.

3 Proposal for Chilean ALMA Time Allocation

We propose participation in the International ALMA TAC under the following terms:

The ChANCo will propose at least 10% of the ALMA Review Panel (ARP) members in different panels. These astronomers should be qualified with the same standards applicable to such appointments internationally.

The ChANCo will appoint one ARP member to represent Chileans in the ALMA Proposal Review Committee (APRC), in the ALMA Director's Council, and to chair the Chilean Review Committee explained below. This person should be an established expert in his/her field, with at least five years of academic experience in Chile, and with good knowledge of the ALMA observatory.

The Chilean ARP members will form a Chilean Review Committee (CRC). The CRC will evaluate the impact of Chilean ALMA proposals in Chile with the following guidelines:

- The CRC will screen the list of submitted ALMA proposals eligible to apply for Chilean time.
- Permanent faculty in Chilean institutions can be PIs of Chilean ALMA proposals and PI or Co-PIs in large proposals;
- Non-permanent astronomy researchers including graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and visitors to Chilean institutions staying for at least a full ALMA observing cycle, can be PIs of Chilean ALMA proposals provided at least one Chilean faculty is Co-I. They can't be PI or Co-PI in large programs. The advisors of graduate students should send a letter of support to the CRC chair.
- If a Chilean PI submits proposals adding to a significant fraction (maybe $> 10\%$ for full ALMA) of the available Chilean ALMA time during one cycle, the CRC could recommend limiting his/her Chilean time allocation. The CRC will then evaluate the expertise of the PI based on his/her previous publication and ALMA record, on the number and expertise of the Chilean Co-Is, on the involvement of graduate students, and availability of local resources.

CONICYT and the UCh should make these guidelines public with each ALMA call for proposals.

The Chair of the CRC will report the decisions of the CRC to the APRC and the ALMA Director's Council.

The Chair of the CRC will report the outcome of the Chilean ALMA time allocation process to the ChANCo.

3.1 Conditions for participation in the international ALMA TAC

Chileans are willing to participate in the international ALMA TAC provided the following conditions are met:

- There have to be Chilean representatives in the APRC, in the Director's Council, and at least 10% of the ARP members, nominated by ChANCo.
- ALMA enforces the CRC resolutions.
- ALMA provides Chilean astronomers the core ARC tasks given to their astronomers as stated in the three agreements between the executives and Chile. ALMA must guarantee access to the data to PIs in Chile in the same timeframes as given to observers from the other regions.
- In the case of duplicated proposals, priority is given to the proposal with the highest likelihood of being observed.
- ALMA provides financial support to all the Chilean participation in the international ALMA TAC.

3.2 Revisions to this proposal.

The Chilean participation in ALMA should be re-evaluated periodically by ChANCo. We propose to initially adopt this mode for three observing periods (cycle 0, cycle 1, cycle 2) by the end of which ALMA will be in full operations mode.