

ESO/Cou-880

11.02.2003

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INFORMATION**

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**Progress Report #7 on Installation of ALMA in Chile**

## **PROGRESS REPORT #7 ON INSTALLATION OF ALMA IN CHILE**

### **1. Overall Negotiations with the Chilean Government**

#### **Status**

In a meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February, the Chilean Undersecretary of State of Foreign Affairs, Mr. C. Barros, has informed the ALMA Representatives in Chile of the following:

- The global amount of the ALMA collaboration in Chile (US\$ 700K) is agreed.
- The annual concession fee for the Chajnantor land is part of the global amount.
- Region II (Antofagasta) has accepted the collaboration scheme. This is an important breakthrough, as the indigenous community of Toconao has now agreed to withdraw any type of land claims in exchange of the collaboration programme.
- CONICYT has still to agree to the collaboration scheme, but Foreign Affairs intends to close this issue before the end of February.

The ALMA Representatives requested the conclusion of negotiations regarding the collaboration Agreements.

### **2. Agreement ESO-Government of Chile**

#### **Status**

No progress on the Agreement ratification issue (see report #6). Foreign Affairs Undersecretary promised to check the status of the case and get things moving.

### **3. Land issue**

#### **Status**

In early March, ALMA should receive an offer from the Ministry of Public Works for the concession fees for the Chajnantor land, including access

roads, the purchase of the OSF land and the cost of the right of way. Pending final verification, the following prices have now been updated:

- Annual concession fees (yearly rent)	US\$ 111.000
- OSF purchase	US\$ 239.200
- Right of way	US\$ 86.000

Three decrees for the three transactions mentioned above will be issued. It should be noted that the concession and right of way decree will be dealt with by the Ministry of Public Assets only, while the land purchase will require the President's signature and approval of the General Controller (Contraloría).

The complete package deal, including the signature of the concession contract should be ready by the end of May (two months are foreseen for the Controller's clearance).

The land issue is now on the critical path of the project.

#### **4. Environmental Impact Study (EIS)**

##### **Status**

The second iteration between ALMA and the agencies concerned by the project's impact has been concluded, and a second Addendum issued by ALMA on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

Addendum No. 2 has to undergo a final formal assessment, allowing the Regional Environmental Authority (COREMA) to prepare the technical report and issue its resolution. The resolution is, tentatively, scheduled for mid-April and should be positive.

However, COREMA might issue conditioning clauses in its resolution.

#### **5. Radio frequency protection**

##### **Status**

The ALMA request is now in a process of evaluation at the Chilean Ministry of Telecommunications.