

ESO/Cou-864

03.12.2002

**FOR
INFORMATION**

COUNCIL

99th Meeting

Garching, December 17 and 18, 2002

Progress Report #4 on Installation of ALMA in Chile

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1. Overall Negotiations with the Chilean Government

The Chilean Presidency has included the ALMA project on the list of highlights for the Bi-Centennial celebration of the Republic of Chile.

Status

The requests for the ALMA collaboration programmes in Chile (see Report #3) have been analyzed and two Agreements drafted but not yet agreed with Chile:

- Agreement with CONICYT (see Addendum 3) for scientific collaboration;
- Agreement with Region II (see Addendum 4) for cultural collaboration with San Pedro.

The global amount for the yearly ALMA contribution remains to be settled. It seems that agreement can be reached on a contribution in the range between US\$ 600 K and US\$ 700 K, including the rental fees for the land concession. A meeting between the Undersecretary of State, C. Barros and P. Vanden Bout has been arranged for 6th December.

2. Agreement ESO-Government of Chile

Status

Following the signature of the ESO-Government of Chile Agreement, efforts were undertaken to see if Parliamentary ratification could be avoided. On November 27th, the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs wrote to ESO stating that ratification was required.

3. Land issue

Status

The draft Decree for the land concession has been discussed with the officials of “Bienes Nacionales” and general agreement on a draft has been reached. Fine tuning of the wording of the Decree, still under discussion with Bienes Nacionales, will be completed shortly (see draft in Addendum 1).

The basic articles of the concessionary contract between Bienes Nacionales and the concessionary company have also been discussed.

The contract will, essentially, include:

- The general contractual conditions
- The concession rent and the modality of the rent payment
- Land location, size and detailed boundaries
- Contract duration
- General definition of the project
- Commitment to execute the project through the ALMA Executives
- Specification that the land concessionary company will entrust the execution of the project to ESO and AUI

Addendum 2 contains a preliminary draft.

4. Environmental Impact Study (EIS)

Status

The addition to the baseline document has been completed with extra archaeological and flora/fauna studies. Informal discussions on the mitigation and compensation plans with the regional departments (14 in total) have been initiated. Some agreements have already been achieved.

5. Radio frequency protection

Status

The petition for the frequency assignment has been completed, in collaboration with the Ministry of Telecommunications.

An exclusive area of protection within 20 Km of the center of the array has been specified. In addition, a “coordination area” within 120 Km from the Array Center has also been requested. “Coordination Area” means that ALMA will be consulted on future project of radio frequency transmissions.

6. Convergence on texts of Agreements

There is an issue of procedure. These agreements are prepared jointly with the North Americans, followed by discussions with Chile, and are presented to Council for further discussion. Council’s views will be reflected in further negotiations with both North America and Chile, but the final convergence requires agreement by all three parties, and in the case of Chile at the level of Sub-Secretary of State at least. Some flexibility in the final stages of negotiations is required by the ESO Management, if the process is to converge.