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**FOR  
INFORMATION**

**COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL**

60<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Antofagasta, 12 March, 2003

**Progress Report #8 on Installation of ALMA in Chile**

## **PROGRESS REPORT #8 ON INSTALLATION OF ALMA IN CHILE**

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

#### **Status**

End of February, the Chilean Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary of State informed CONICYT on his agreement with the ALMA Executives for the collaboration programme, in the terms indicated in the previous report, i.e., 700K US\$ in total, including the rental fees for the land. CONICYT is to be granted 2/3 of the remaining amount and Region II, 1/3.

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

#### **Status**

No progress was achieved with the ESO Agreement ratification issue. Aside from the February holiday period, the Chilean Government was reshuffled and the Minister for Parliamentary matters did not continue in the new Cabinet.

ESO contacted the Chilean authorities again, after the formation of the new Cabinet, in order to break the deadlock of this case.

### **3. Land issue**

#### **Status**

Final verification of the concession, purchase and right of way has cleared the pending issues for the land by the Ministry of Public Works. ALMA is now expecting formal offers on this. Once ALMA has accepted the offers, Public Works will proceed with the three Decrees. It should be noted that the ALMA Executives will acquire the OSF land directly from Public Works. This will be subject to the Chilean Presidential acceptance and Decree.

Meanwhile, a Chilean Company is being established, in order to become the recipient of the Chajnantor concession, as required by the Chilean law of concession.

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

#### **Status**

The EIS is in its final phase and a technical report, including all requirements and comments from all the Agencies involved in the process, is being submitted to the Regional Environmental Council (COREMA) for

debate. It is expected that a positive resolution will be issued by the COREMA, with a minimum level of commitments for the ALMA project.

The principal commitments are linked to the following issues:

- Protection of the flora and fauna in the access to Chajnantor's vegetation area.
- Anthropological/archaeological consultancy during the construction phase.
- Sanitary and safety issues compatible with the Chilean law.
- Visitor centre near San Pedro and observing point, for tourists, at Chajnantor.

All these commitments have been reviewed and accepted by the JAO.

## **5. Radio frequency protection**

### **Status**

The ALMA application for the protection of radio frequencies above 31 GHz, and the establishment of a safeguard coordination zone at 120 Km. around the centre of the ALMA Array, are currently under evaluation at the Ministry of Telecommunications.