



ALMA TAC

European Alma Board
October 30, 2003



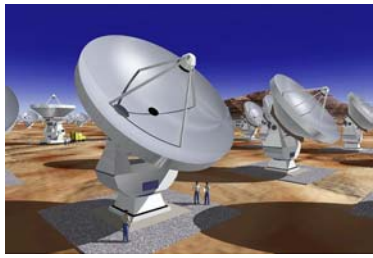
Overview

- ASAC recommendations
- ‘Subject based’ versus ‘Partner based’ models
- Why accommodating at least partly the ‘partner based’ model holds promise for the European partners within ALMA
- Possible and necessary amendments
- Future work



ASAC recommendations: general

- PRC ('Programme Review Committee') rather than TAC ('Time Allocation Committee')
(i.e. keep recommendation and implementation independent)
- Also: let the PRC not lose its time discussing boundary conditions
- Need for setting time (6-10%) apart for
 - international (i.e. no-partner) programmes
 - DDT
 - special (key, legacy) programmes



ASAC recommendations: two models

Subject-based PRC

(e.g. ESO, HST, IRAM)

- +)
- expertise
- collaboration
- competition
-)
- parity and style issues
- arbitrary balance between subjects

Partner-based PRC

(e.g. JCMT, CFHT, Gemini)

- +)
- partners can develop own priorities
-)
- collaboration discouraged
- duplications hard to avoid



Towards an optimal ALMA model

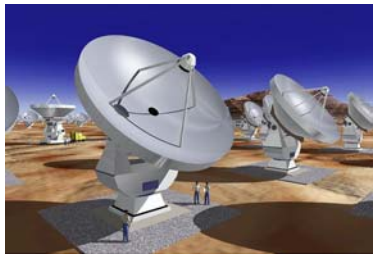
Both models are not necessarily disjoint

It must be possible to combine

- right of each partner to express own emphasis
- overall vision on (large, key, legacy) science

Common sense commands

- partner-based programme review
- coordinating international committee (special programmes, director contacts, duplications)
- scheduling under supervision of project



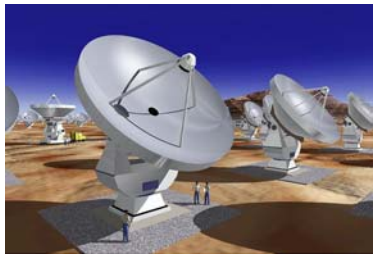
A separate European TAC (or PRC): the european view (TBC) ...

Con

- It is against our tradition
- Scientific excellence does not appear as the first driver

Pro

- Ensures rights of all partners
- May allow better to define strategies w.r.t.
 - other ESO telescopes
 - possibilities for a European Central Programme and for Guaranteed Time
 - ESA projects
- [We think it is what our partners (including Chile) will want.]



... and its provisos (i.e. overcoming the ‘Cons’)

- ‘It is against our tradition.’

Cross-talk between ALMA PRC and OPC may be easier with a European PRC.

- ‘Scientific excellence does not appear as the first driver.’

Need for an ‘International Programme Review Committee’, to

- be the single point of contacts with the director
- resolve conflicts between proposals from different PRCs
- handle special programmes

Recommendation about (key, large, legacy) programmes:

- is 6-10% really enough?
- should they be truly international (no ‘EU’ and ‘US’ deep field)?
- (only) one call per year

Should DDT be handled by JAO or by each of the partners?