



The proposed ALMA Regional Center node in the Netherlands

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Organization

- Coordinator: Michiel Hogerheijde
- Based on expertise from
 - University astronomy departments, working together as NOVA
 - SRON
 - ASTRON
 - JIVE
 - NL-participation in JCMT
- Main location hosted by Leiden Observatory
 - Individual member(s) temporarily stationed at Dwingeloo/SRON for expertise transfer



Activities

- Philosophy
 - Provide general face-to-face user support
 - Targeted at regional audience but everyone welcome
 - Develop a few expertise focus areas
 - International audience
- Provide support through
 - Visitors
 - Specialized workshops
 - Introductory schools
 - Community conduit



General face-to-face user support

- Recreate 'small' observatory feel
 - Encourage visits
- Concentrate on data reduction step
 - Prevent that users thoughtlessly accept pipeline processed data
- Collection point for (software) ideas
 - Support users in developing their own tools for processing and analysis





Expertise areas

- **High-frequency projects (>400 GHz)**
 - Support from proposal preparation through data calibration, reduction, and analysis
 - Focus on calibration and atmospheric correction
 - All aspects tie in to observing preparation
 - Ties to production & commissioning Band 9
- **Wide-field and high-dynamic range imaging**
 - Focus on algorithms rather than software
 - Promote interoperability of tools
 - Help with access to appropriate computing facilities
- **Science analysis tools**
 - Focus on infrastructure
 - Molecular, atomic, opacity data
 - Common interface to modeling tools
 - Simple tools (with clear limit on warranty!)
 - Link into ALMA simulator

Collaborations

- Face-to-face support
 - ARC network
 - Postdoc and student exchange program?
- High frequency observing
 - WVR development at Cambridge and Onsala
 - Atmospheric line work (Madrid)
- Wide field / high dynamic range
 - Algorithm development & implementation; collaborations throughout ARC network (incl. ESO, NRAO, JBO)
- Science analysis tools
 - Bonn/Köln/Bochum
 - Onsala



Staffing levels

- Envisaged by 2007/08
 - 2 astronomer
 - 2 postdocs
 - 2 programmers
- Committed
 - 6 person-years until 2008 (NOVA)
 - 2 postdoc-year (NOVA: CHAMP+)
 - 2 postdoc-year (NWO: e-SMA, requested)
 - Funding options open after 2009
- Consulting roles for SRON, ASTRON, and JIVE





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