

ALMA European Science Advisory Committee (ESAC)

- who we are and what we do -

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on behalf of the ESAC

ESAC role

Sub-committee of the ESO STC

Advise on technical and scientific matters related to ALMA and APEX.

Twice yearly face-to-face meetings and interspersed telecons (e.g., in advance of ESO-STC or ASAC meetings).

Current members

Rob Ivison (UK; chair)

Frédéric Gueth (FRA)

Lauri Haikala (FIN)

Michiel Hogerheijde (NL)

Jes Jørgensen (DK)

Jesús Martín-Pintado (ESP)

Rafael Moreno (FRA)

Elaine Sadler (AUS)

Linda Tacconi (GER)

Members appointed for (renewable) 3-year terms.
Overlap in membership of ASAC and STC

A couple of items of discussion from the last year....

Start of Cycle-0

- Congratulations to the entire ALMA team for the on-time and on-budget start of Early Science.
- Thanks to the European ARC and ARC-nodes for outstanding work that have prepared the ESO community to make the optimum use of the Cycle 0 capabilities.
- Of course issues and concerns (staffing situation(s), time-schedule for EU deliverables, overall efficiency,...) as well as lessons learned (the Cycle 0 proposal review process going into Cycle 1).

ALMA development plan

- From European side quite a lot of progress with the development of the band-5 receivers and case studies for a number of other projects underway - including VLBI, extension/upgrade of existing receiver bands, ...
- Implementation of ALMA Development Steering Committee to coordinate development programs between different partners.
- EU workshop in early 2013 (TBA).

APEX

- Very productive facility - in particular, the bolometers.
- Less competition for the “bad weather” low frequency receivers.
- Recommendation to issue call for legacy science as well as instituting more rapid turn-around allowing PIs to provide feedback concerning obtained data.

Future of European prototype antenna

- EU ALMA prototype antenna on NRAO Socorro site.
- Offer from Steward Observatory to take it over (including disassembly etc.). ESAC recommended to proceed with this with details still being negotiated.

We are not the ESO (ALMA) user committee, but...

- From ESAC terms of reference:
 - *Advise STC on scientific priorities for projects and programs, the maintenance, upgrade, and operations of ESO facilities in the specific area of expertise of each Sub-Committee, upon request of STC or on its own initiative.*
 - *Keep STC informed of the long-term scientific priorities and plans of the astronomical communities in the ESO member states in the context of world-wide astronomical endeavours.*
- We are there to give the community a say in ALMA at the European level. So, we of course welcome your input...