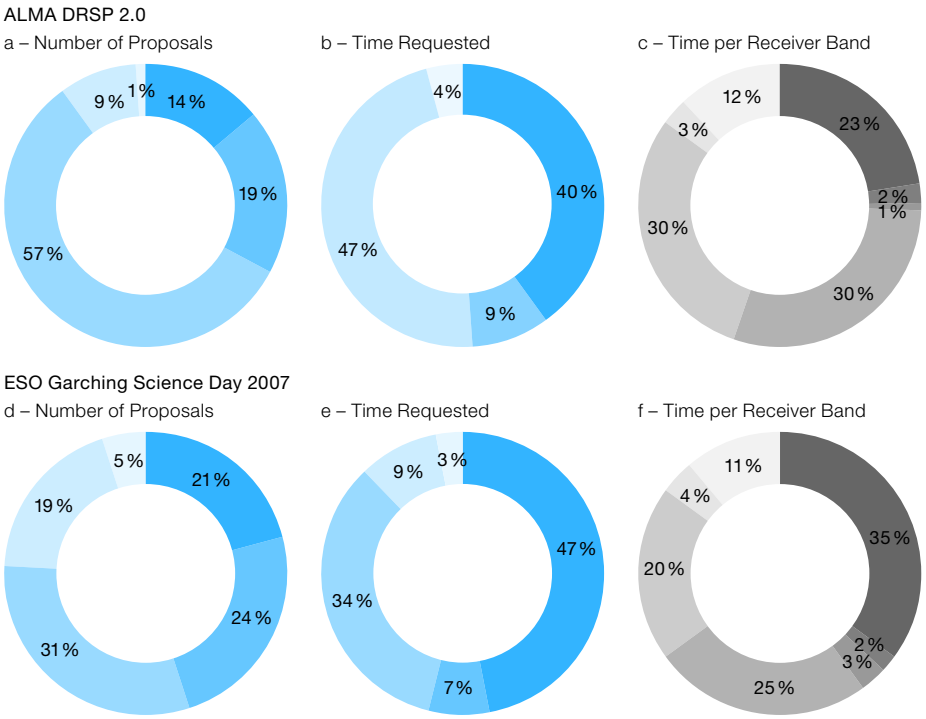

Figure 1: Ring charts show the distributions of the number of proposals and total time requested in the various ESO-OPC categories (A-Cosmology; B-Galaxies and Galactic Nuclei; C-Interstellar Medium, Star Formation and Planetary Systems; D-Stellar Evolution, with the addition of S-Solar Physics), and the distribution of the requested time for the various ALMA frequency bands (see Haupt and Rykaczewski 2007). The top diagrams relate to the ALMA DRSP 2.0 while the bottom ones derive from the ESO Garching Science Day 2007 presentations.

Key to a, b, d, e: OPC Categories A B C D S

Key to c, f: ALMA Receiver Bands B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8 B9

the DRSP and almost 50 % in the Science Day programmes.

While the differences between the DRSP and the ESO Science Day programmes may, in part, reflect the large fraction of scientists among the ESO staff interested in stars, galaxies and cosmology, it is important to point out that several ALMA applications in these areas, that are not covered in the DRSP 2.0, were presented. These new programmes will be incorporated in the next revision of the DRSP. The Science Day is thus a strong and positive indication that astronomers coming from outside the traditional millimetre community want to use the unique ALMA potential to attack problems that are completely out of reach with current millimetre instruments.

References

Hogerheijde M. 2006, The Messenger 123, 20
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News from the ALMA Test Facility

Todd Hunter (NRAO), **Robert Laing** (ESO)

A major milestone was achieved at the ALMA Test Facility (ATF) on 19 January 2008 when the first interferometric spectrum of an astronomical source was obtained. The spectrum, shown right, was of the hot molecular core of the Orion Nebula. The two ALMA prototype antennas at the ATF were used, along with evaluation front-end receivers and production back-end equipment controlled by a combination of ALMA software and ad hoc scripts and procedures. This milestone follows the ability of obtaining stable dynamical fringes on bright quasars, which was achieved in the second half of 2007. The baseline length at ATF is 35 metres and the spectral resolution used is 7.8 MHz (24 km/s) which is one of the low-resolution configurations of the correlator.