



NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

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To: Distribution

From: Marc Rafal

Subject: Announcement

Date: 17 December 2001

I am pleased to announce several changes for the management of the North American Frontend Division. In order to accelerate progress in several key development areas, I have asked John Payne to lead a new Advanced Development group that will focus on new technologies including photonics and laser metrology. This will require that John step down as Frontend Division Head and Head of the ALMA Tucson Engineering Division (ATED). In his place, I have reached an agreement with HIA in Victoria Canada for Charles Cunningham to become the new North American Frontend Division Head. I have also asked Antonio Perfetto to lead the ATED. These changes are effective beginning 2 January 2002.

I want to personally thank John for an exceptional job as US Division Head for the frontend area. By forging a successful international collaboration, John has positioned us to move forward with frontend developments as we move into the construction phase. I am delighted that he has agreed to bring his broad knowledge and experience to direct and coordinate an international team developing a broad range of important "beyond the baseline" technologies. In addition to this new role, John will remain an active member of the frontend group, which will continue to benefit from his considerable experience. This is particularly important as we begin the planning for the ALMA frontend integration center in Tucson.

Charles Cunningham has already been a major contributor to the ALMA frontend effort through the Joint Receiver Design Group. As Frontend Division Head, Charles will lead the North American frontend effort and help lead the Frontend IPT with Wolfgang Wild. Charles will remain an employee of HIA and be based in Victoria. He will be a frequent visitor to both Tucson and Charlottesville as he coordinates the frontend activities at those locations as well as Victoria. Charles brings a great deal of experience in frontend development that will be a great asset to the ALMA project. This arrangement also demonstrates the close and productive working relationship that has evolved between the US and Canada for ALMA (and EVLA).

Antonio has been leading the evaluation receiver and holography system developments needed for prototype antenna evaluation. In this role he has been a valuable asset to the ALMA Project and I am confident that he will do an outstanding job managing the diverse day-to-day development activities carried out by the ATED.

Please join me in congratulating John, Charles and Antonio on their new roles.