

Charges to ASAC for report at the November 2010 Board Meeting:

1. The principal item for this meeting is the readiness of the Project to start Early Science and the content and timing of the Call for Proposals. Key issues include: the status and reliability of the infrastructure, hardware and software (including both the real-time aspects and the suite of software for supporting observations) and of the calibration systems and methods; the completeness of AIV, CSV and System Verification tasks; and the preparedness of the user support system, as well as the expectations and needs of the user community. The ASAC will have reports from the CSV Status Review and the Science Operations Readiness Review. (Note that these reviews will be happening immediately before the ASAC meeting so final reports will not be available but members of the ASAC will have participated in those reviews and summaries of the conclusions will be presented.) In addition, reports on the status of construction and of the observatory infrastructure will be presented, along with details of current limitations and developments which relate to the question of which capabilities should be offered at which stage. Further considerations are whether or not the burden of supporting Early Science will delay the completion of the full construction program and, conversely, whether exposure, at this stage, to the problems of providing a service to users will help or hinder the project in achieving its final goals. The ASAC should provide commentary on these topics and make recommendations on how to proceed with the Call for Proposals.
2. Issuing the Call for Suggestions for Science Verifications targets has been postponed several times. It is now proposed to do this as soon as possible after the reviews and the ASAC meeting, in order to take advantage of the improved perspective that will have been gained. The ASAC should advise on the content of that call.
3. The document Principles of ALMA Proposal Review Process has been approved by the Board. ASAC should review progress on the implementation of these principles and provide comments to the Board.
4. Although the immediate question of readiness for Early Science will be dominant at this meeting, the ASAC should nonetheless also pay attention to the broader picture of the progress of the Project towards Full Operation and for its further development, and bring any concerns to the notice of the Board, particularly in the areas of scientific commissioning, software development and implementation and user support.

Other ASAC activities which are not formal charges from the Board.

5. Community sounding on expectations for early science, and ALMA information resources for the general community.
6. ASAC will continue to look for ways in which ALMA construction and operations might be more environmentally friendly, especially in terms of energy use (without compromising science). (Issues of energy use are discussed in the Marshall et al. Decadal Survey white paper at http://low-energy-astro.physics.ucsb.edu/Marshall_Energy_APP_EPO_IPP_FFP_DEM.pdf)