

# ALMA Early Science & NAASC Community Training Events



The ALMA Board, at its meeting on November 16-18, 2010 enthusiastically endorsed the progress of the ALMA project and announced that the first Call for Proposals is expected by the end of the first quarter of 2011. They noted that *“ALMA is on track to begin Early Science observations late in 2011, as planned. While many challenges remain, it is already clear that ALMA ‘works.’ It is anticipated that the ALMA Director will issue a Call for Proposals for Early Science in the first quarter of 2011. That announcement will provide more details of the expected timeline and capabilities to be offered.”* For the full announcement, including images from recent ALMA test data, see [tinyurl.com/2wnstyx](http://tinyurl.com/2wnstyx).

To prepare the North American community to fully participate in the Early Science (ES) call, the North American ALMA Science Center (NAASC) will organize community outreach and training events each month leading up to the proposal deadline. The first of these events will be at the American Astronomical Society (AAS) meeting in January in Seattle (see article in the 5 Nov 2010 NRAO eNews). See the sidebar for other upcoming community training events.

More information about these training workshops will be posted in the near future at [science.nrao.edu/alma/workshop-tutorial.shtml](http://science.nrao.edu/alma/workshop-tutorial.shtml).

In addition to these events, **the NAASC announces an opportunity for the NA community to organize local ALMA Community Day(s):**

We invite community members to submit proposals to host an **ALMA Community Day(s) event**, a one to two day event organized and led by the proposers with a focus on the Early Science capabilities of ALMA, mm/submm interferometry observing techniques, and the tools required to design ALMA observing programs and submit proposals. The proposal should not be longer than one page and must include the following information:

1. A detailed scientific program that highlights ALMA ES capabilities.
2. Two or three possible dates for the proposed event.
3. The expected location, size of the audience, and advertisement plan.

The NAASC will support the event by providing staff to describe ALMA ES capabilities and NAASC community support programs, and lead brief demonstrations and/or tutorials on the ALMA ES user tools, including the ALMA Observing Tool for proposal generation and SIMdata in CASA for simulating observations. The proposal should include a description of the desired level of NAASC staff support, and time for these activities should be included in the proposed scientific program.

We expect to be able to support one Community Day(s) event per month starting in February. Interested community members should contact Kartik Sheth ([ksheth@nrao.edu](mailto:ksheth@nrao.edu)) for further details. Proposals for the March-May period should be sent to the NAASC ([lvonschi@nrao.edu](mailto:lvonschi@nrao.edu)) by February 1, 2011, and by January 15 for a February event.

For more information about the NAASC or about observing with ALMA, visit [science.nrao.edu/alma](http://science.nrao.edu/alma) and submit any other questions via the NAASC/ALMA department of the NRAO helpdesk through [my.nrao.edu](http://my.nrao.edu).

## ALMA Community Training Days

**January 18, 2011**

Victoria, BC (following the conference “Extending the Limits of Astrophysical Spectroscopy”)

**February 24-25, 2011**

Hands-on Tutorials at NRAO-Charlottesville

**March 11, 2011**

Santa Fe, NM (following the conference “Building on New Worlds, New Horizons”)

**April 26-27, 2011**

Hands-on Tutorials at NRAO-Charlottesville

**May 9-10, 2011**

Hands-on Tutorials at NRAO-Charlottesville



The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array, an international astronomy facility, is a partnership of Europe, Japan, and North America in cooperation with the Republic of Chile. The National Radio Astronomy Observatory is a facility of the National Science Foundation operated under cooperative agreement by Associated Universities, Inc.