# An Introduction to the ALMA Observing Tool

How to turn that great idea into ALMA data...



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Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array
Expanded Very Large Array
Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope
Very Long Baseline Array





# Cycle 3 Capabilities

- At least 36 x 12-m antennas, plus 10 x 7-m antennas (for short baselines)
   and 2 x 12-m antennas (for zero-spacing)
- Receiver bands 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, & 10 (wavelengths of about 3.1 to 0.35 mm)
- Baselines up to 2 km for Bands 8, 9 and 10, up to 5 km for Band 7, and up to 10 km for Bands 3, 4, & 6
- Both single field interferometry and mosaics of up to 150 pointings
- Spectral-line observations with all arrays and continuum observations with the 12-m Array and the 7-m Array. Single dish use will be limited to spectral line observations in Bands 3 to 8.
- Polarization (on-axis, continuum in Band 3, 6 and 7, no ACA, no mosaics, no spectral line, no circular polarization)
- Mixed correlator modes and multiple spectral windows (both high and low frequency resolution in the same observation)
- The **maximum** observing **time** per proposal, as estimated by the OT, is **100** hours.



# Once you have done this...

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#### Observing Tool

The ALMA Observing Tool (OT) is a Java application used for the preparation and submission of ALMA Phase I (observing proposal) and Phase II (telescope runfiles for accepted proposals) materials. It is also used for preparing and submitting Director's Discretionary Time (DDT) proposals. The current Cycle 1 release of the OT is configured for the Early Science Capabilities of ALMA as described in the Cycle 1 Call For Proposals. Note that in order to submit proposals you will have to register with the ALMA Science Portal beforehand.

#### **Download & Installation**

The OT will run on most common operating systems, as long as you have Java 6 installed (see the troubleshooting page if you are experiencing Java problems). The ALMA OT is available in two flavours: Web Start and tarball.

The Web Start application is the recommended way of using the OT. It has the advantage that the OT is automatically downloaded and installed on your computer and it will also automatically detect and install updates. There are some issues with Web Start, particularly that it does not work with the Open JDK versions of Java such as the "Iced Tea" flavour common on many modern Linux installations. The Sun/Oracle variant of Java should therefore be installed instead. If this is not possible, then the tarball installation of the OT is available.

The **tarball** version must be installed manually and will not automatically update itself, however there should be no installation issues. For Linux users, we also provide a download complete with a recommended version of the Java run time environment. Please use this if you have any problems running the OT tarball install with your default Java.

## WebStart

#### Tarball

#### Documentation

Extensive documentation is available to help you work with the OT and optimally prepare your proposal:

- If you are a novice OT user you should start with the OT Quickstart Guide, which takes you through the basic steps of ALMA proposal preparation.
- Audio-visual illustrations of different aspects of the OT can be found in the OT video tutorials. These are recommended for novices and advanced users alike.
- More in-depth information on the OT can be tound in the User Manual, while concise explanations of all fields and menu items in the OT are given in the Reference Manual. These two documents are also available within the OT under the Help menu.



Expanded Very Large Array Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope Very Long Baseline Array

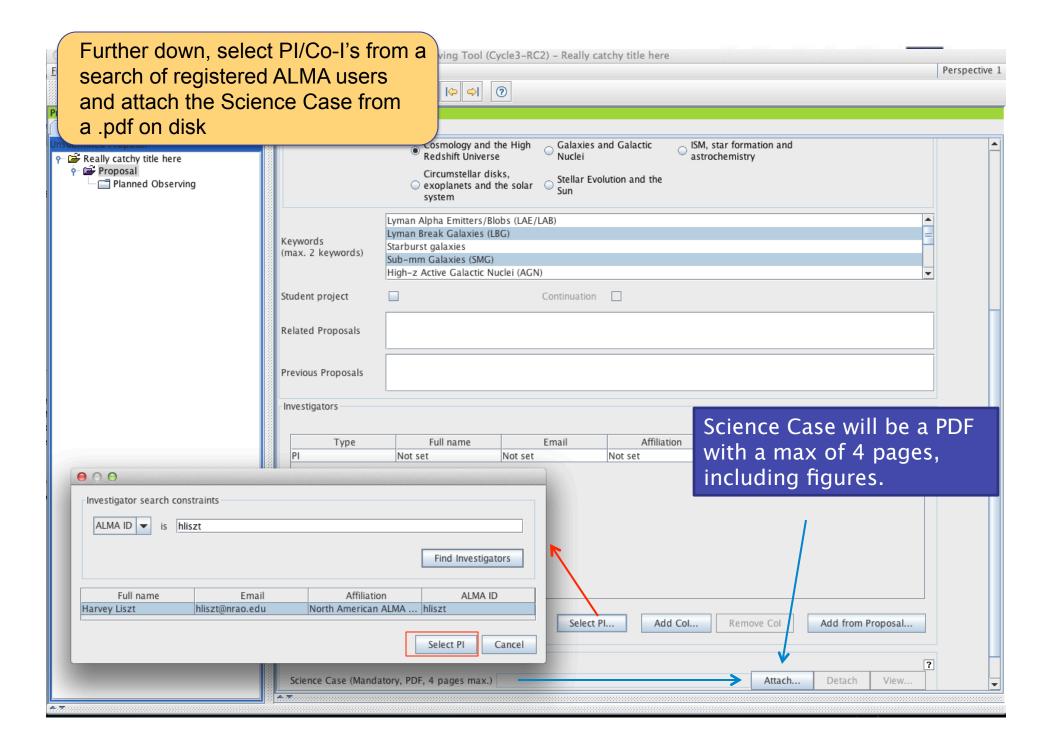


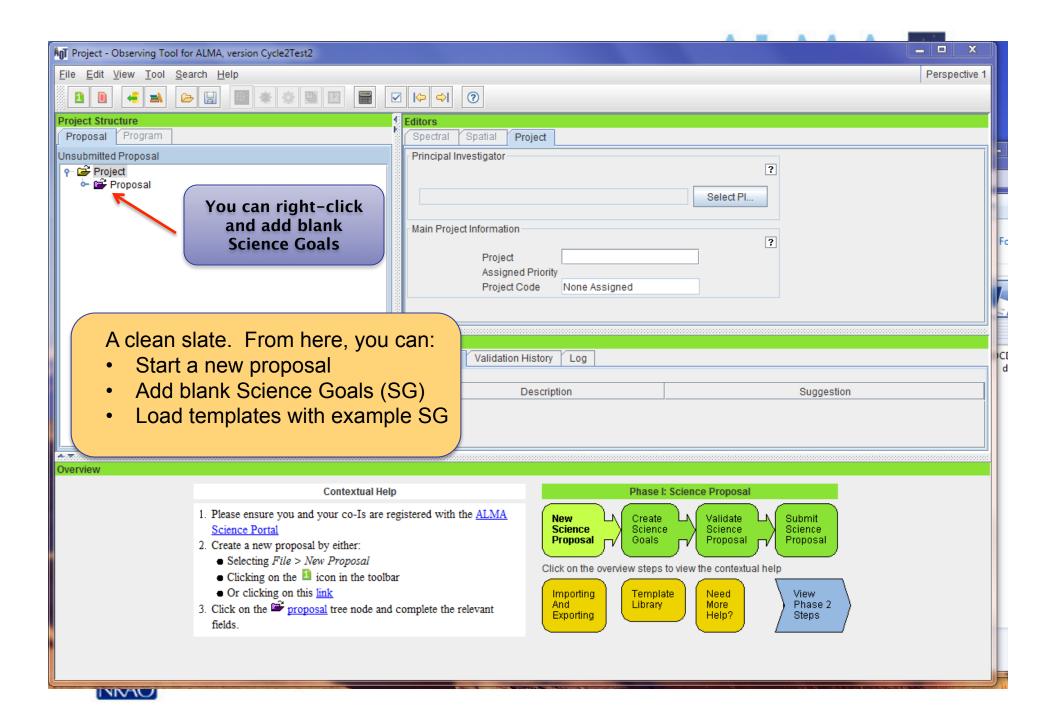
The upper part of the proposal cover (Cycle3-RC2) - Really catchy title here page is where you define the proposal: Perspective 1 ? Title, Abstract, Category, Keywords, note related/previous proposals ... Proposal Proposal Title Really catchy title here Planned Observing Proposal Cycle C3UT.1 Not too abstract, please Abstract (max. 1200 characters) Launch Editor Proposal Type Target Of Opportunity Scientific Category Cosmology and the High Redshift Universe ISM, star formation and astrochemistry Galaxies and Galactic Nuclei Circumstellar disks, Circumstellar disks,

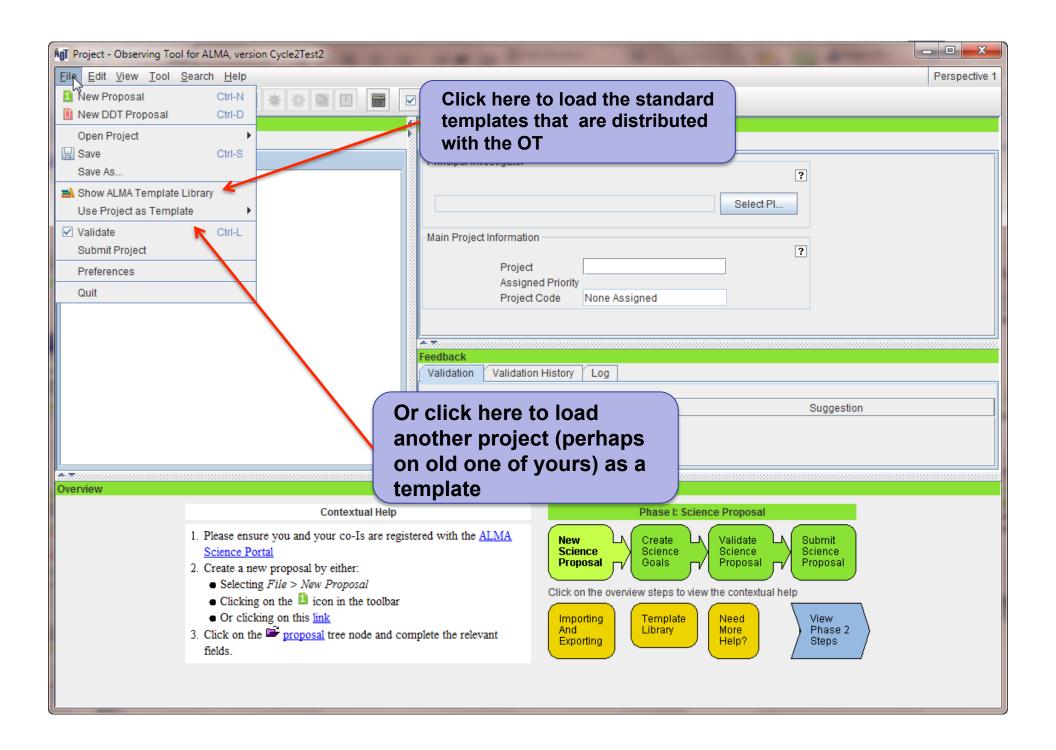
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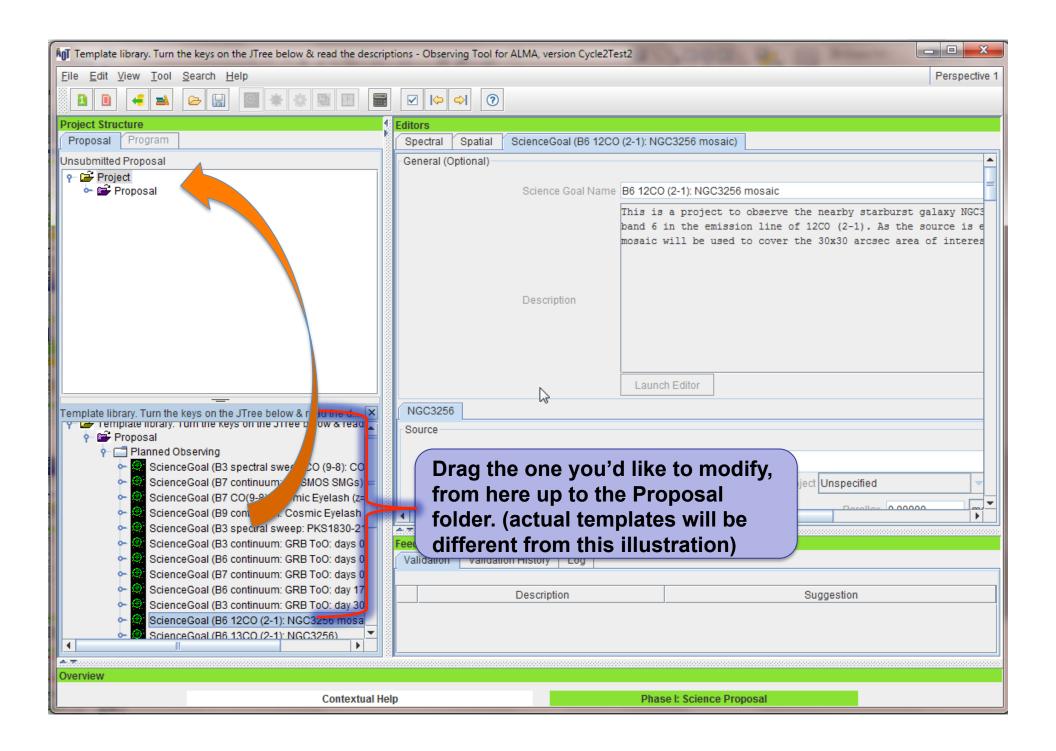
Sun

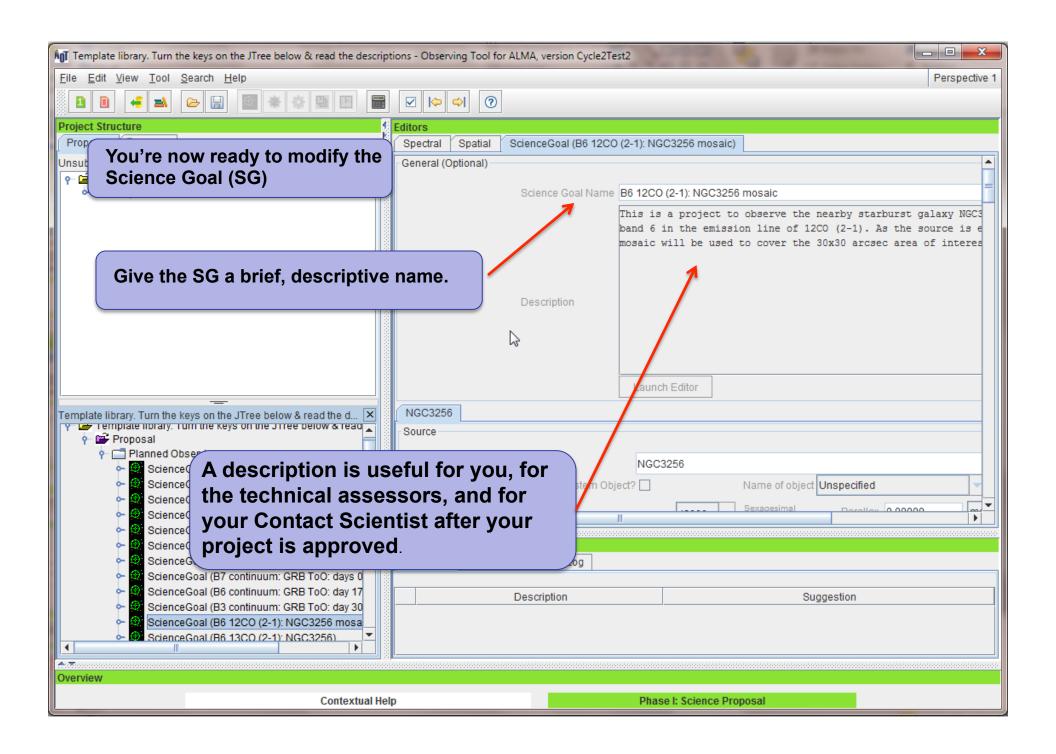
Stellar Evolution and the Lyman Alpha Emitters/Blobs (LAE/LAB) Lyman Break Galaxies (LBG) Keywords Starburst galaxies (max. 2 keywords) Sub-mm Galaxies (SMG) High-z Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN) Student project Continuation Related Proposals Previous Proposals Investigators ?

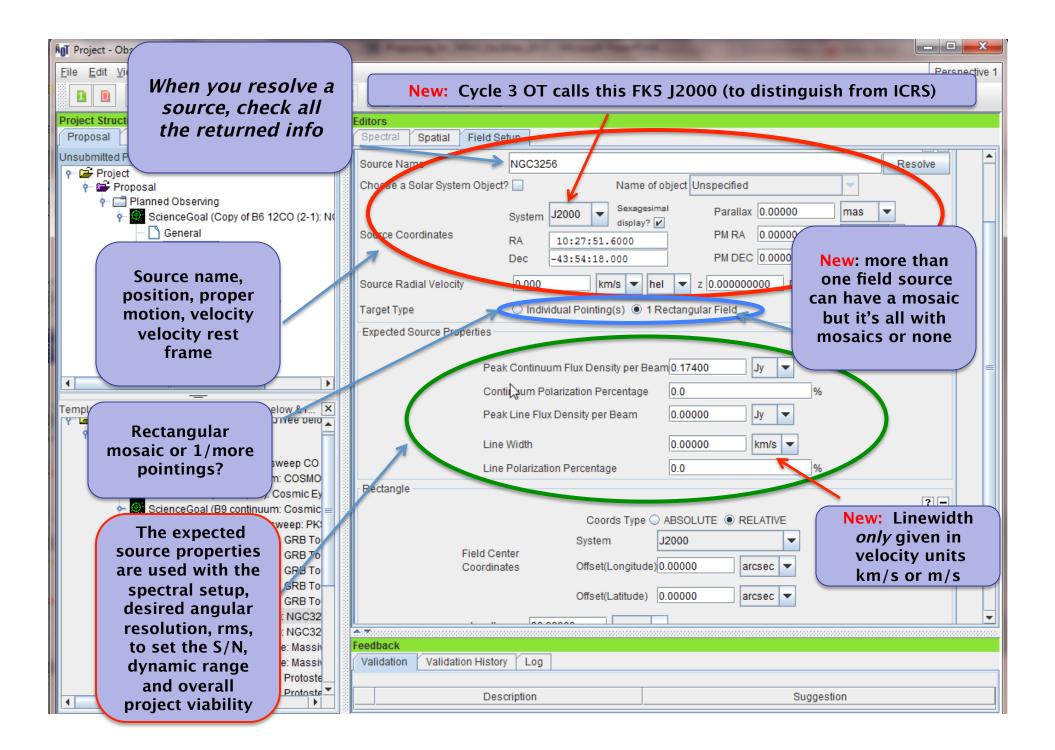


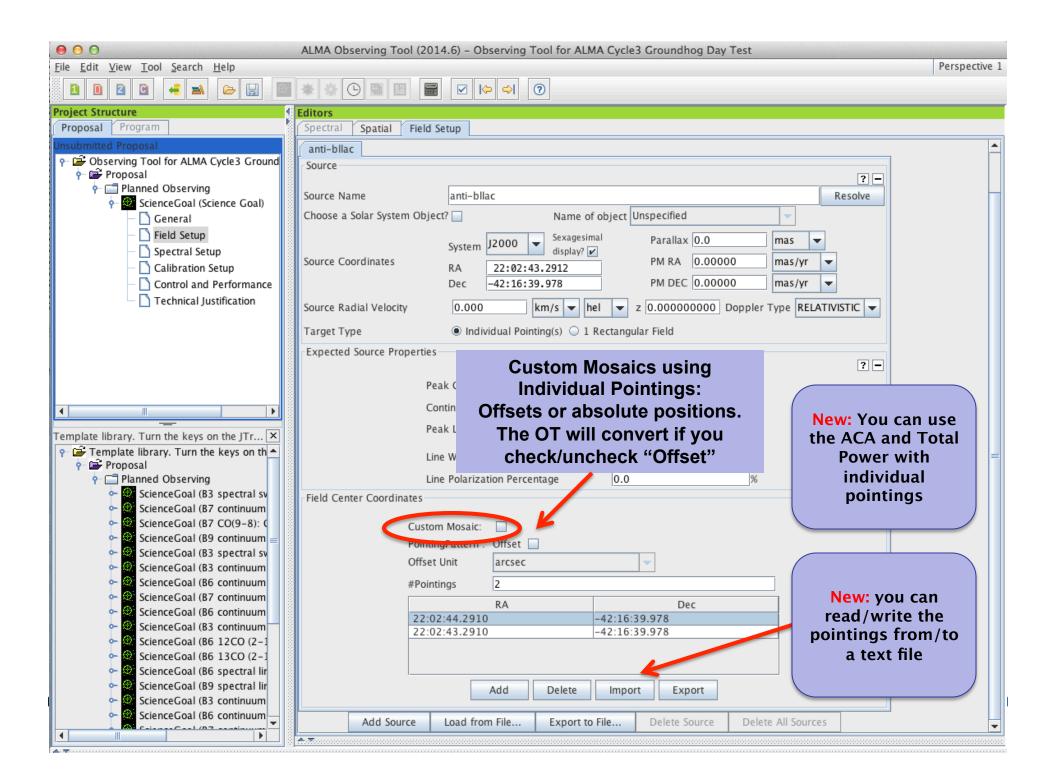


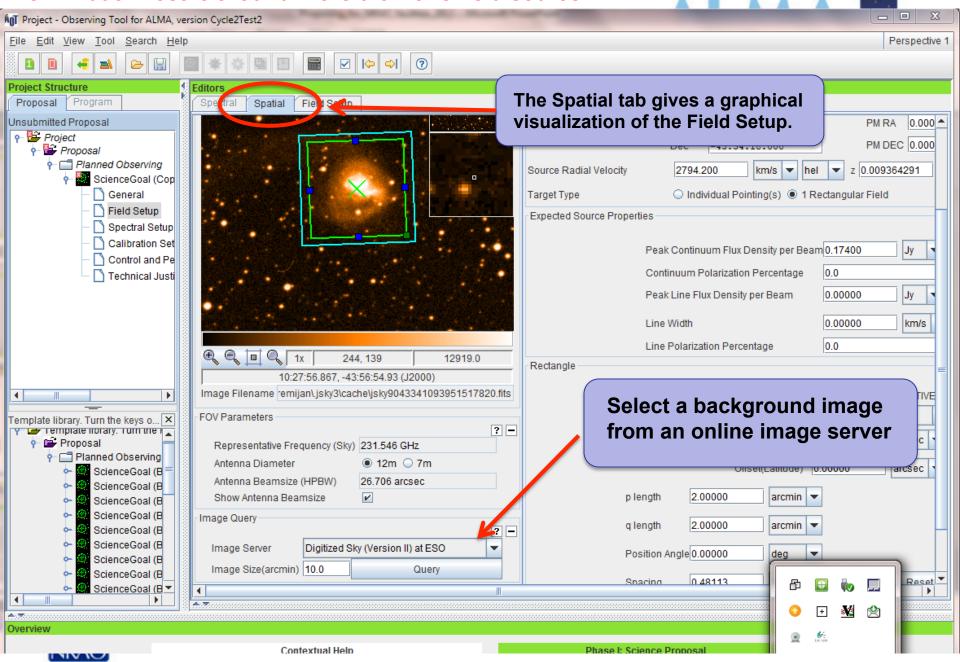


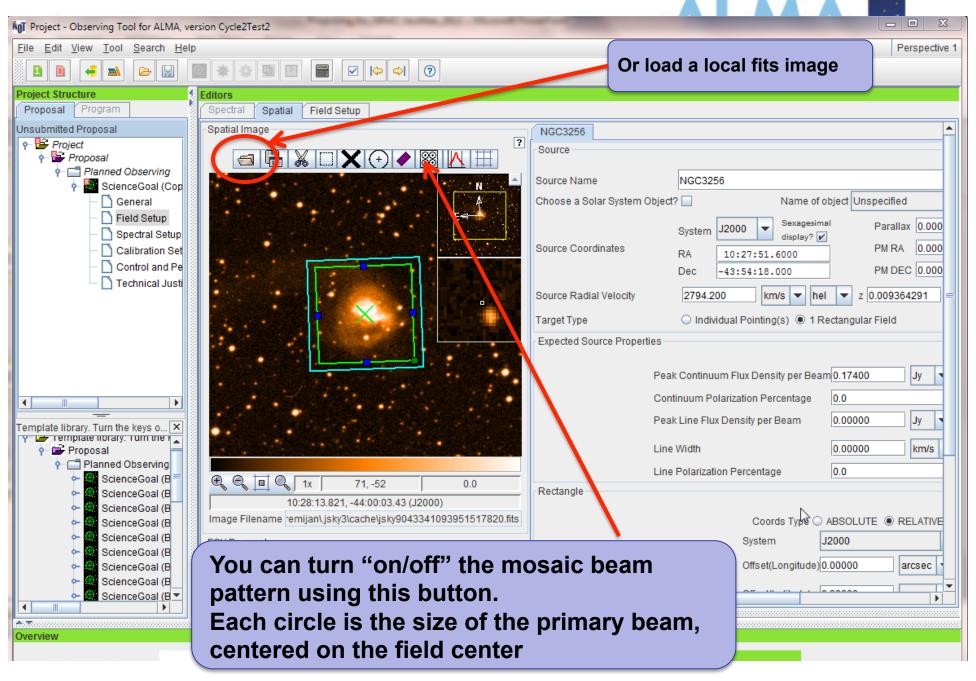


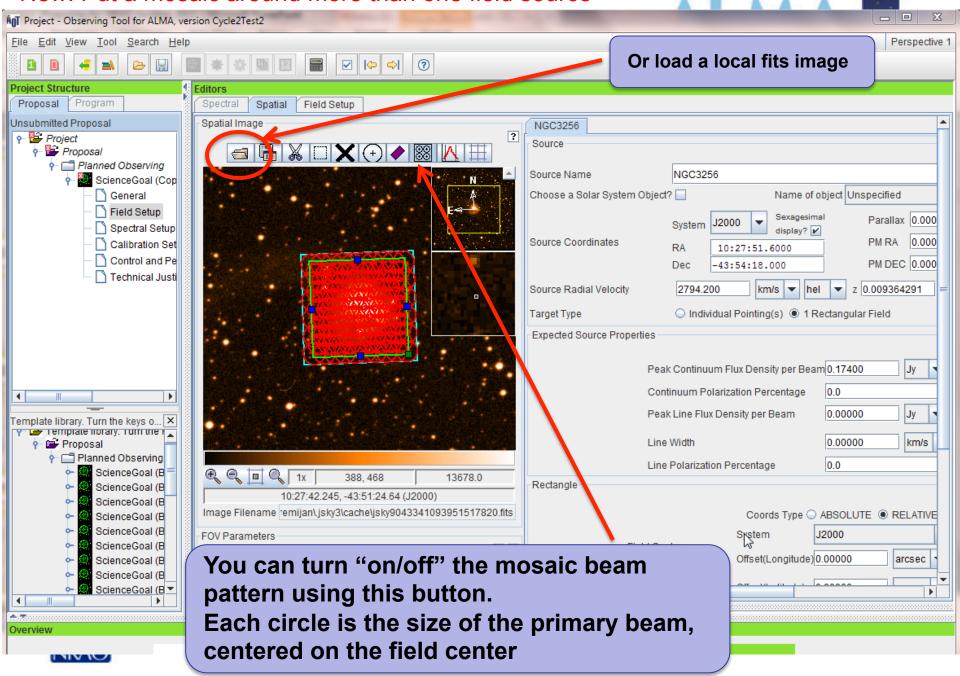


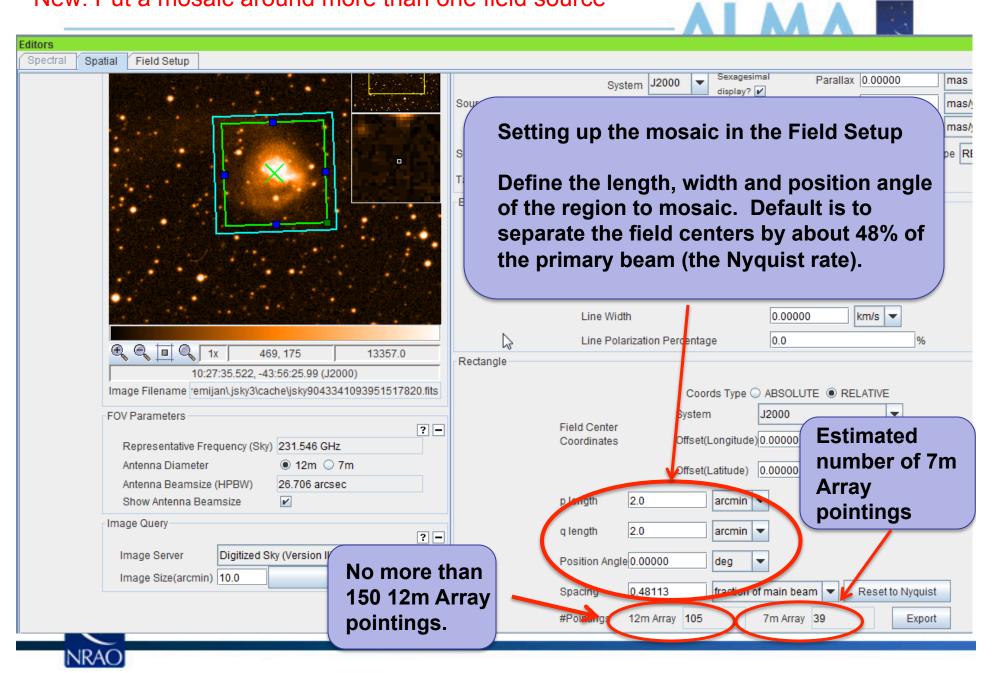


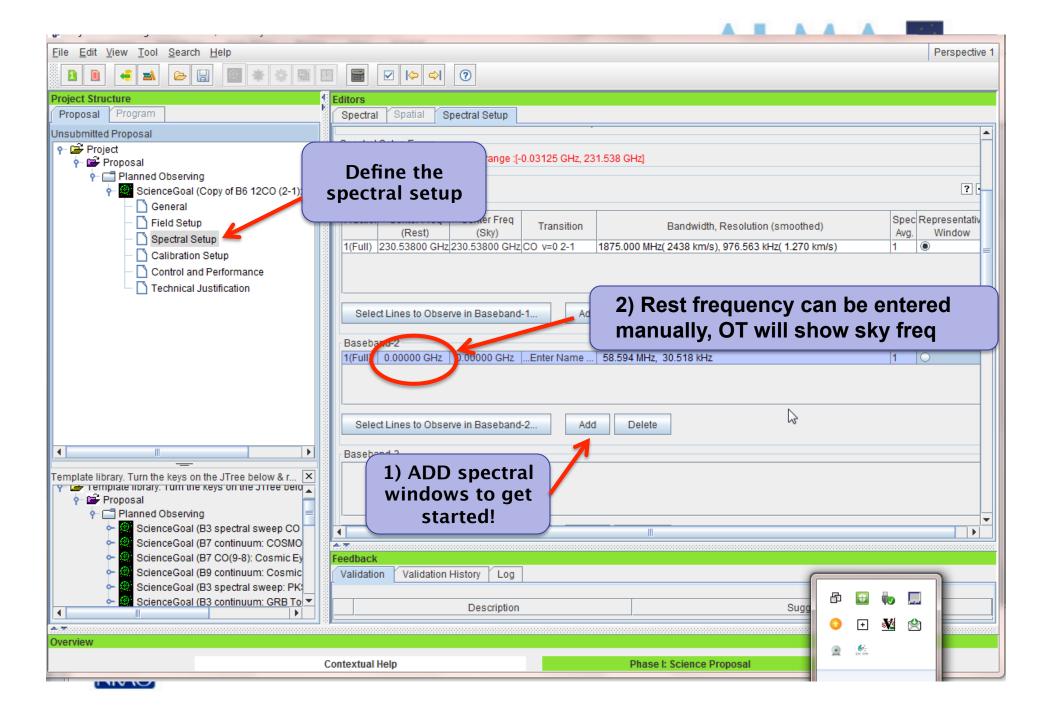


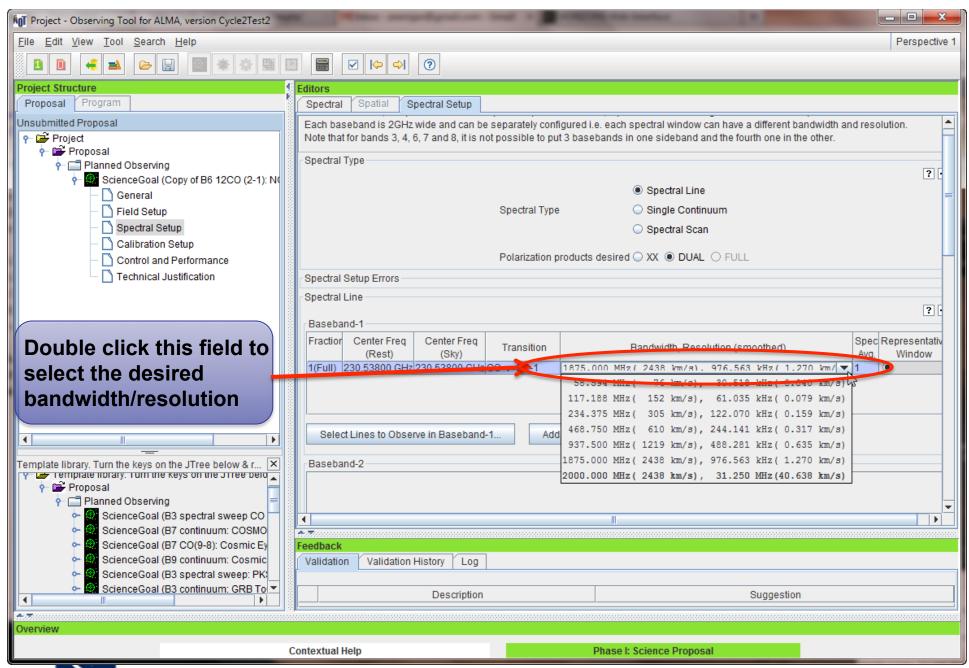




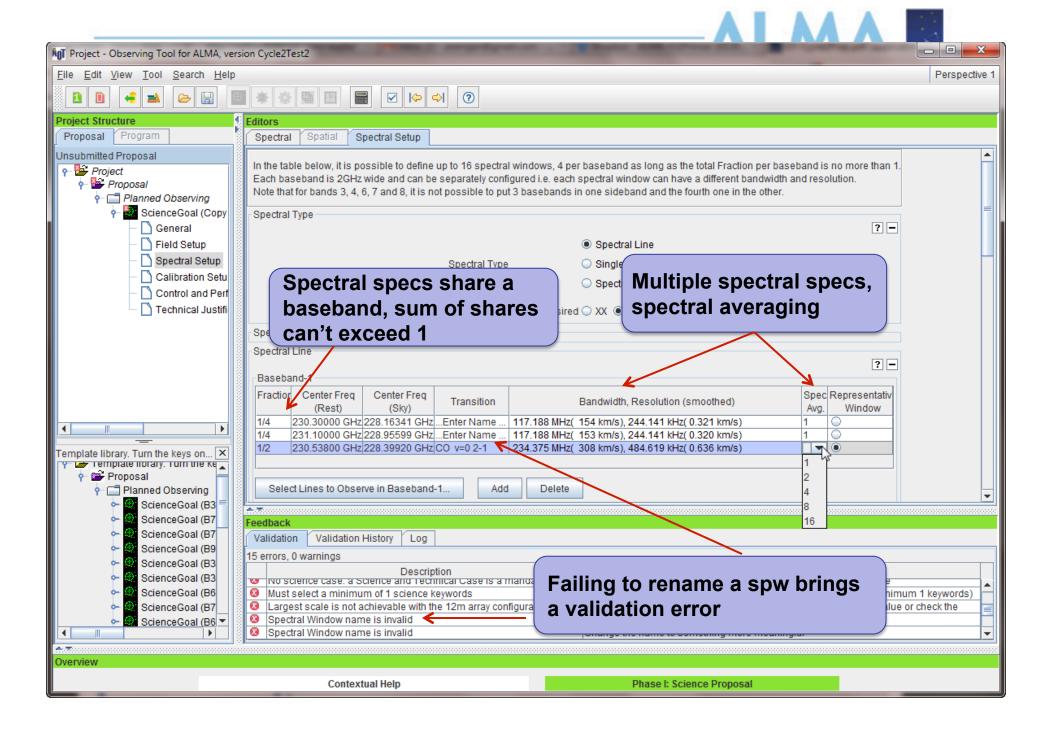


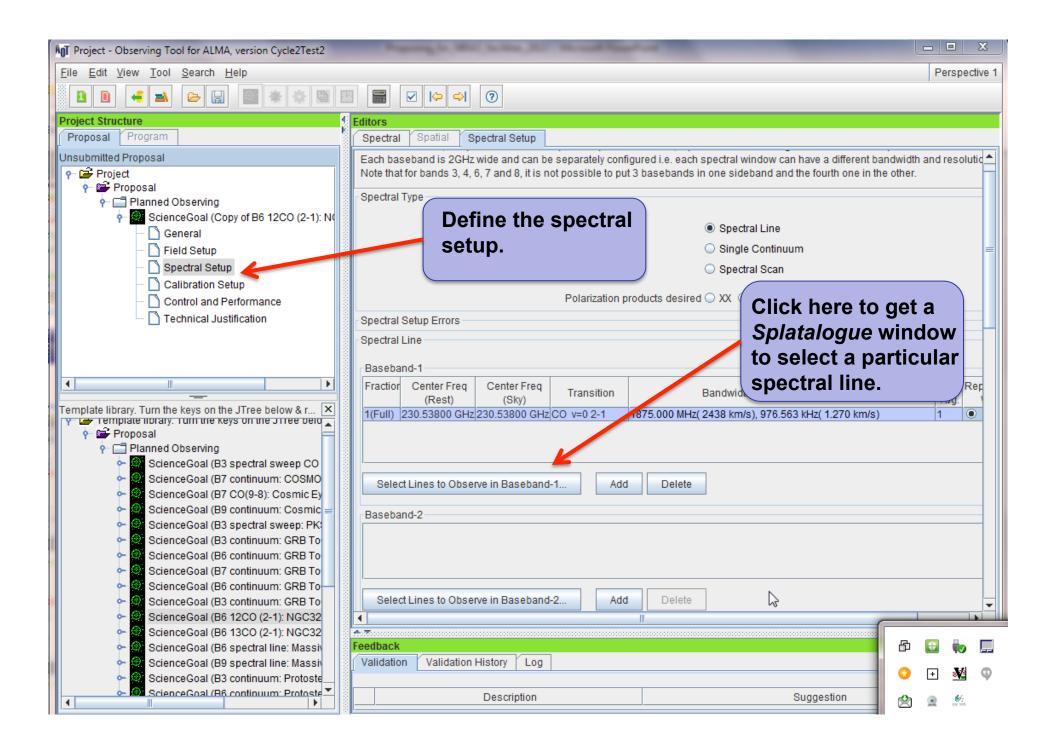


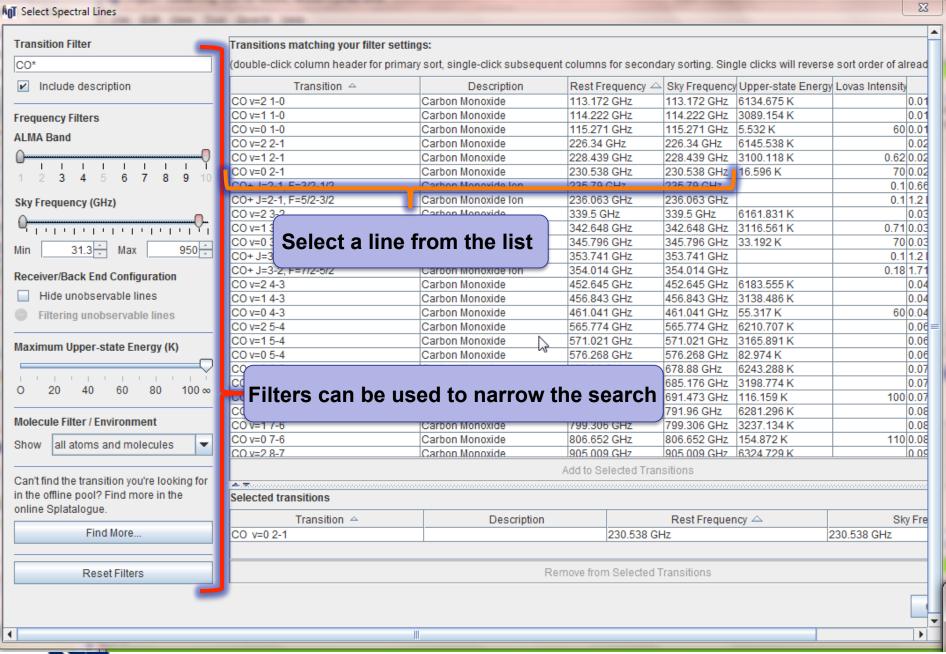




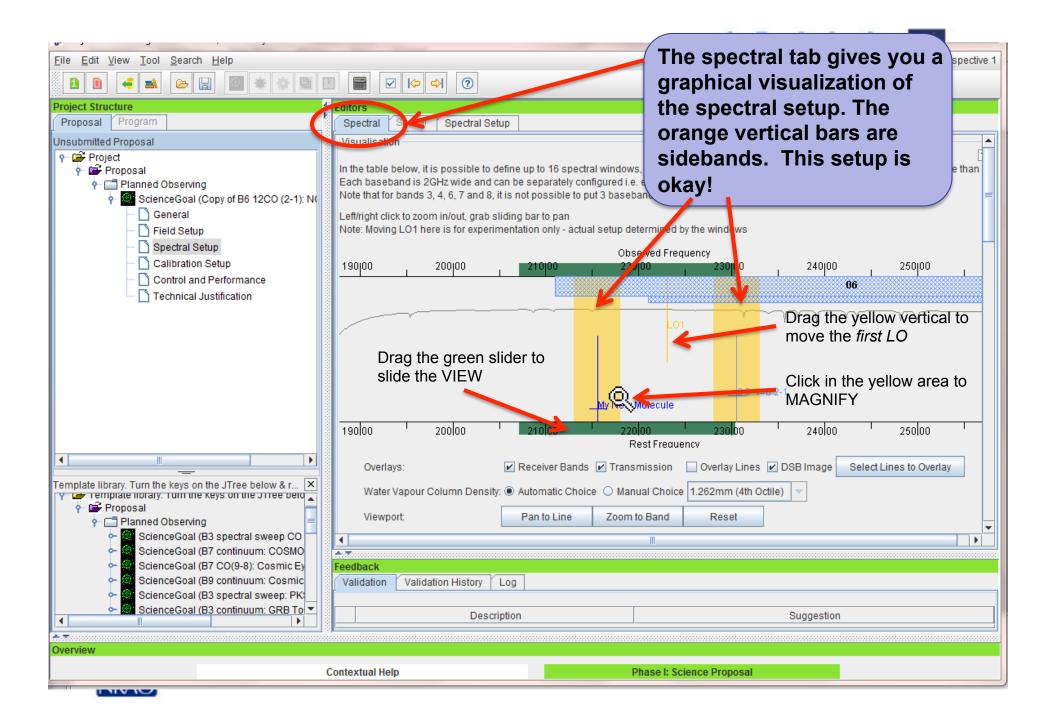




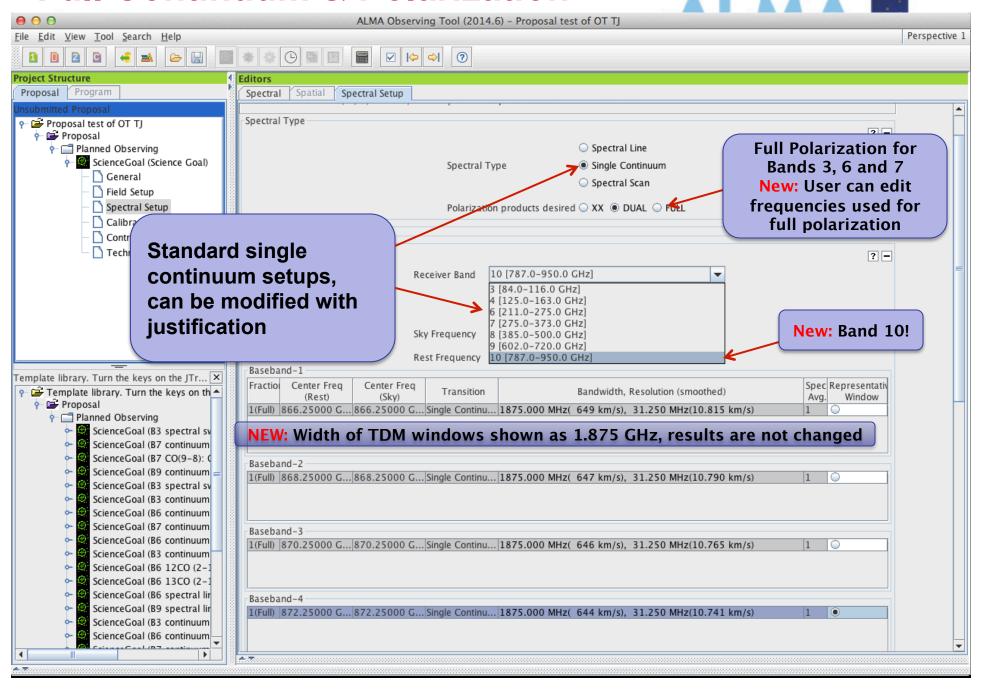




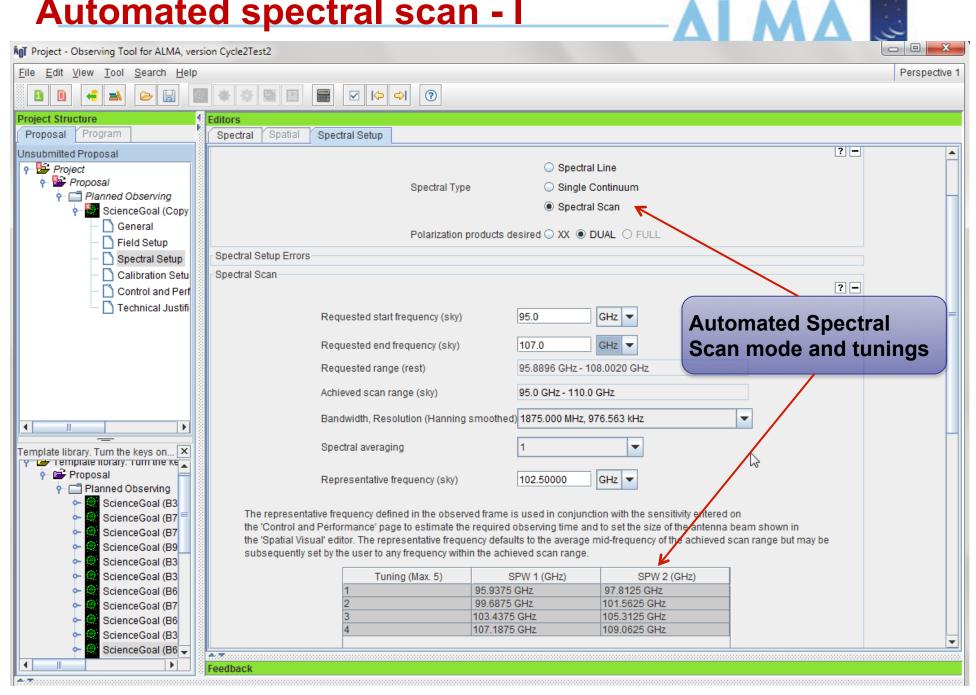




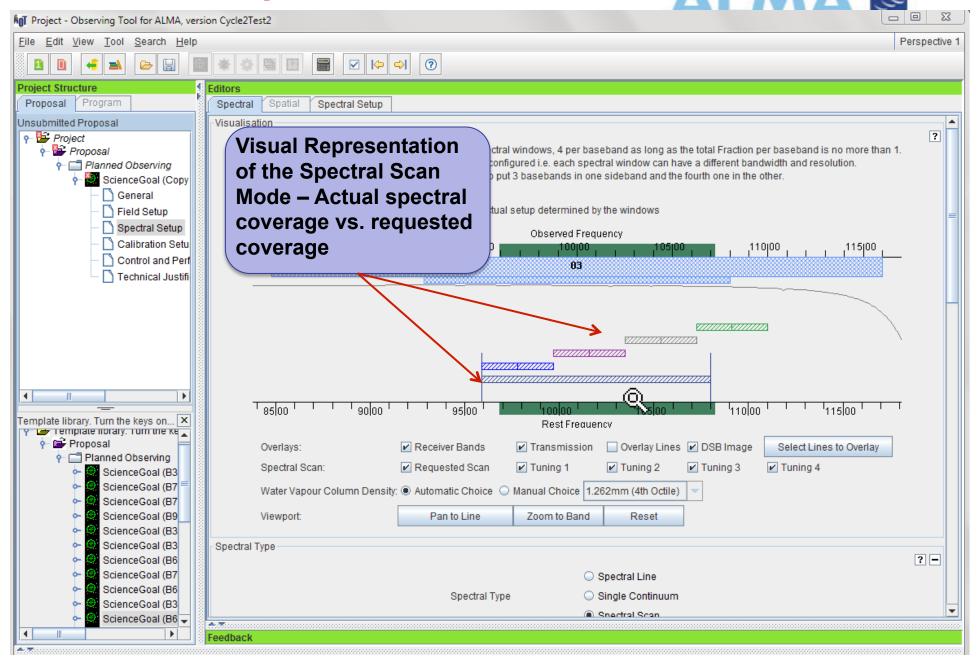
## **Full Continuum & Polarization**

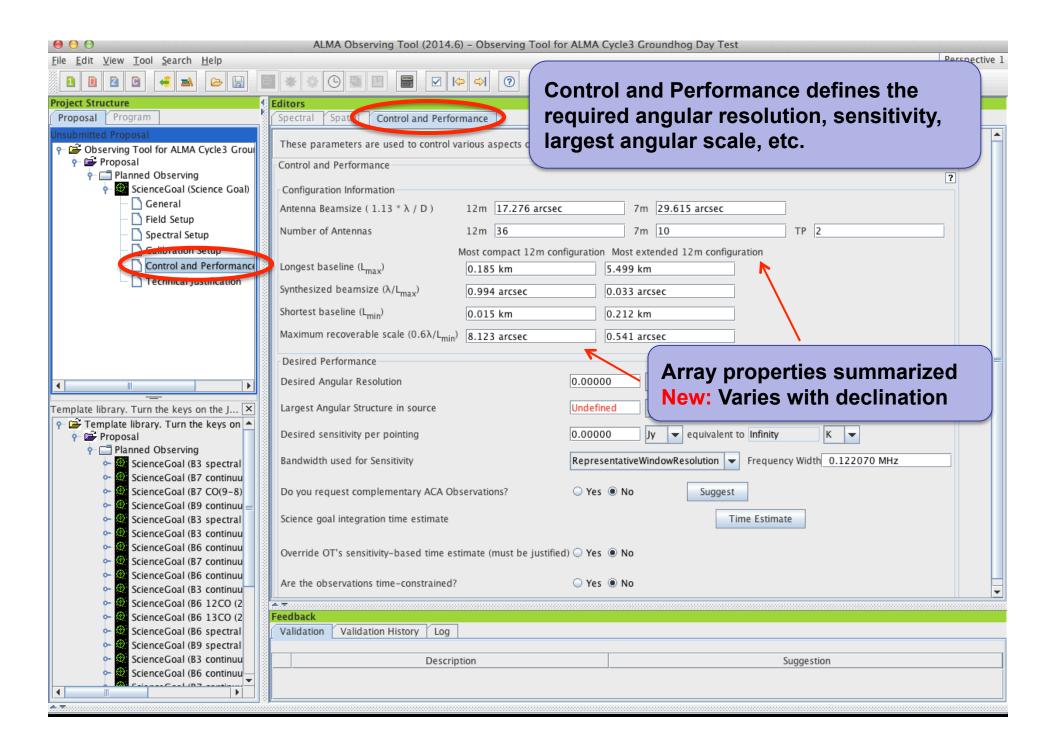


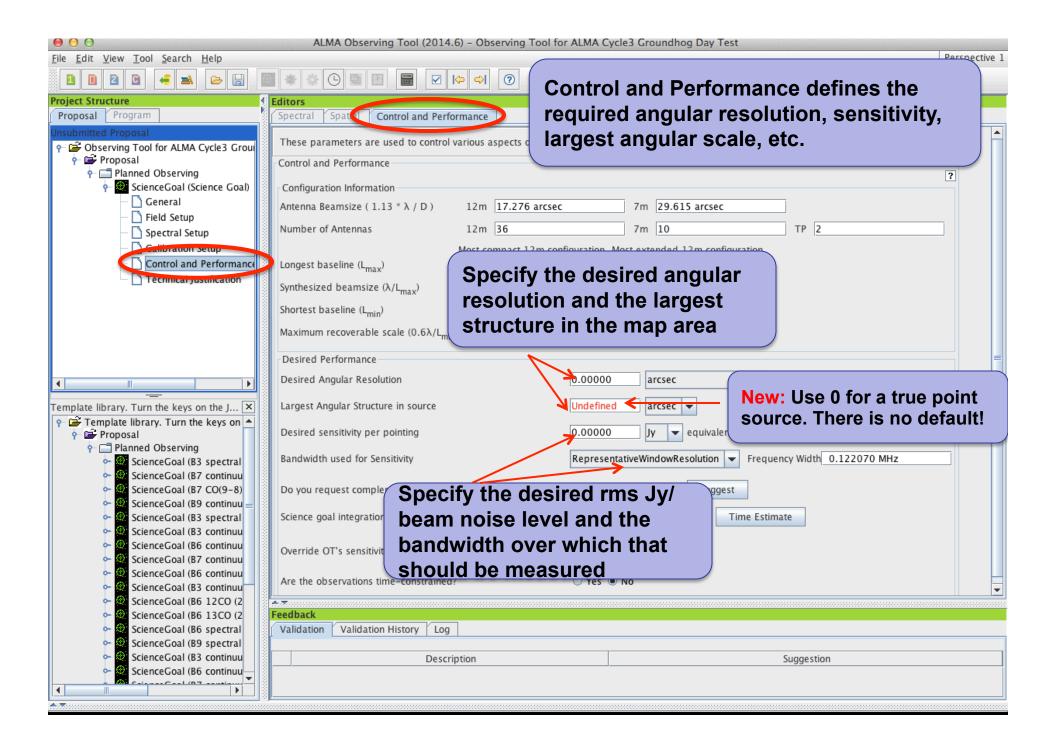
## Automated spectral scan - I

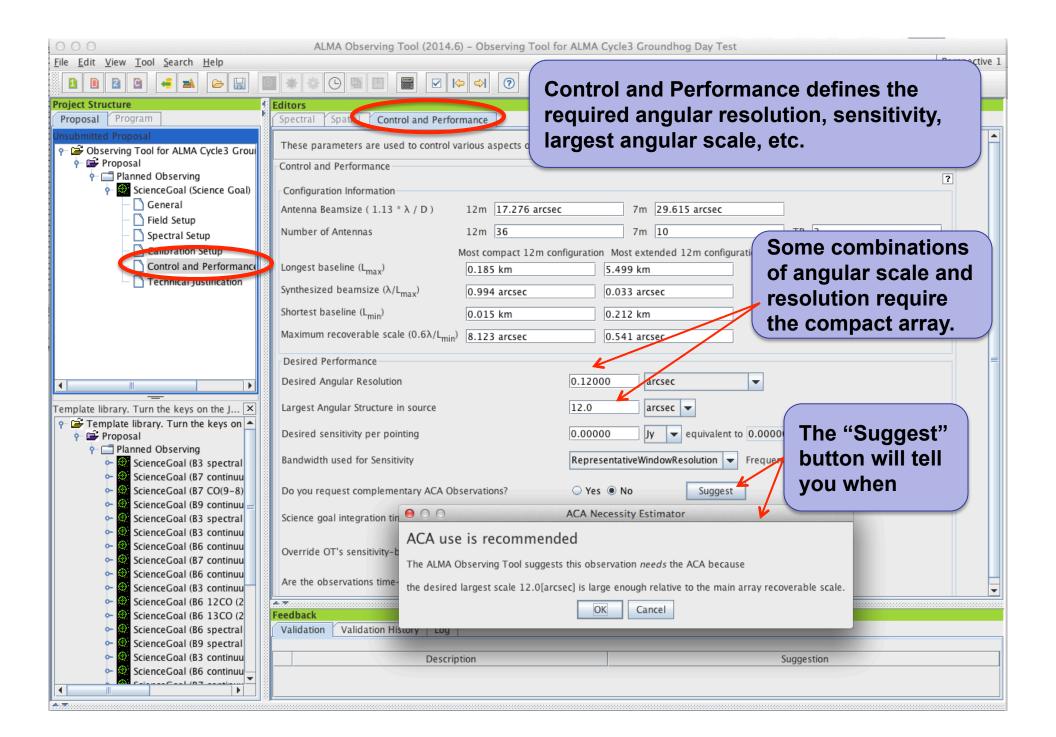


## **Automated spectral scan - II**



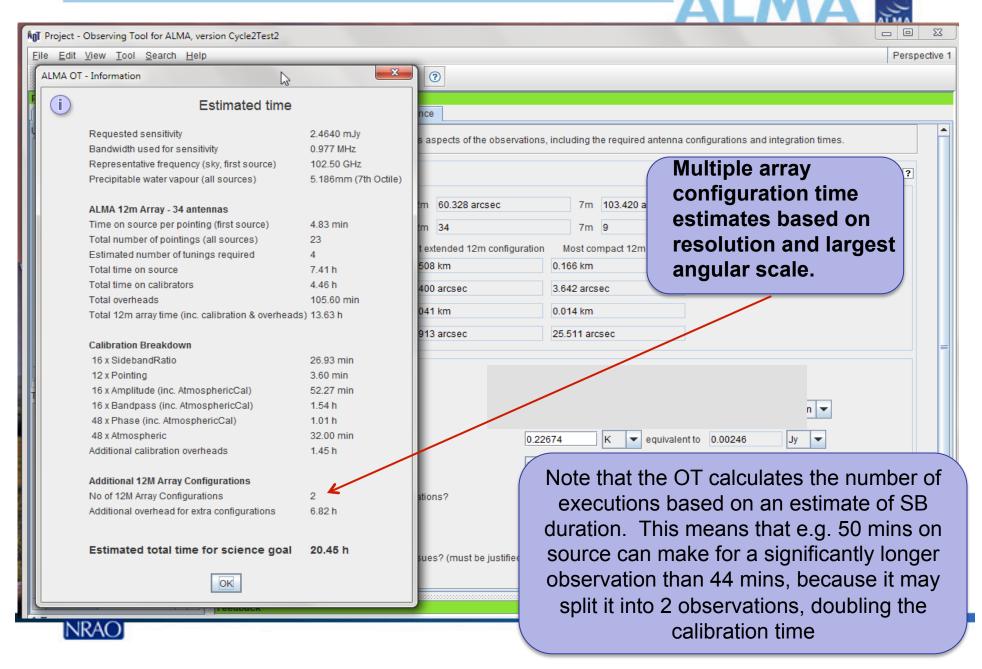


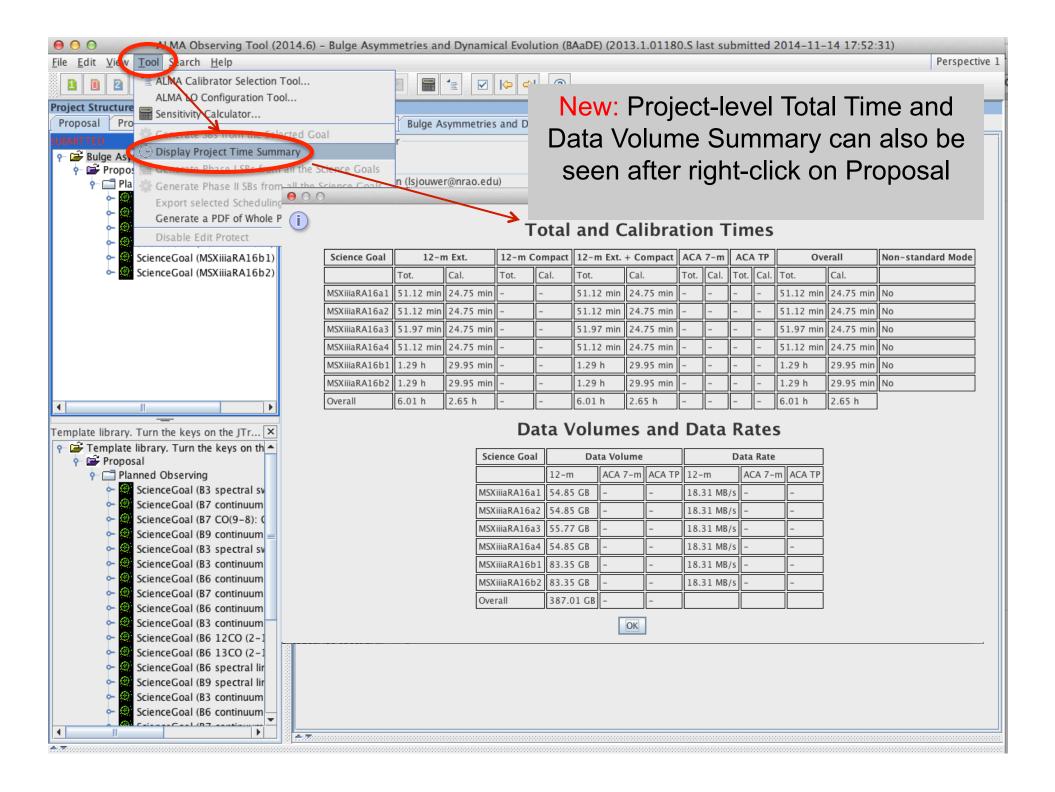




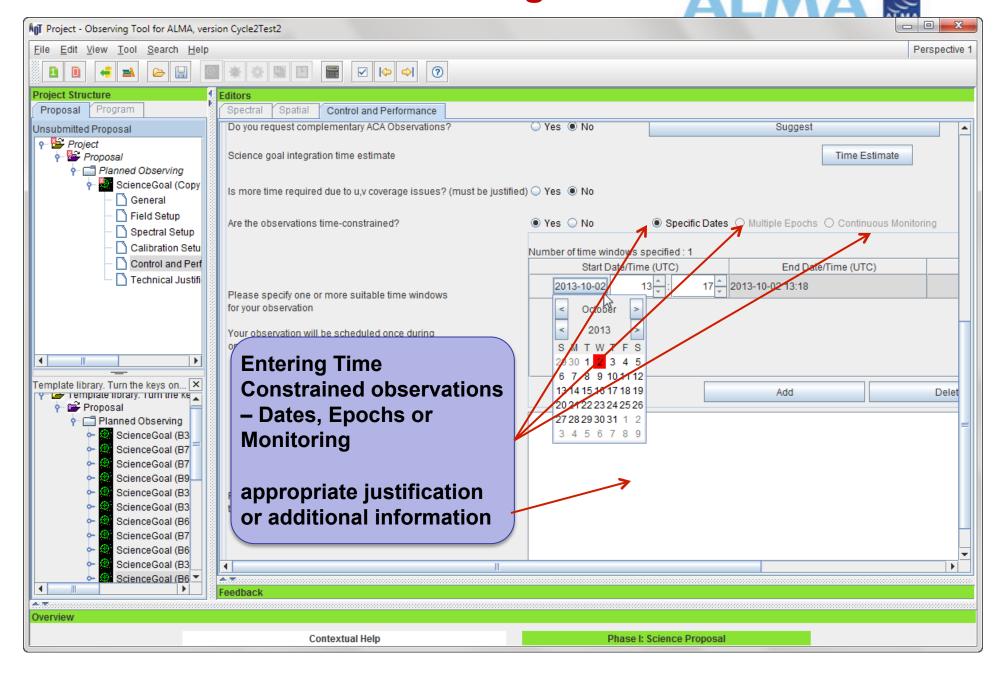
Time estimates - Tool (2014.6) - Observing Tool for ALMA Cycle3 Groundhog Day Test File Edit View Tool Search Help Perspective 1 **Estimated Time** Project Structure Note: The time in brackets is that required to reach the sensitivity. Proposal Program Operational requirements often mean that the actual observed time is longer, especially for mosaics. Please see the User Manual for more details. servations, including the required antenna configurations and integration times. - God for Cool for Proposal Input Parameters Planned Ob Requested sensitivity 10.00 mJy ? - Science Bandwidth used for sensitivity 0.122 MHz Gen Representative frequency (sky, first source) 337.06 GHz 7m 29.615 arcsec Field Precipitable water vapour (all sources) 0.658mm (2nd Octile) 7m 10 TP 2 Spec Ca Ca Time required for largest 12-m array figuration Most extended 12m configuration Cont 5.499 km Tech Total number of pointings (all sources) 0.033 arcsec Number of tunings Total time on source 22.17 min [22.08 min] 0.212 km Calibration time 27.98 min 0.541 arcsec Other overheads 20.10 min Total time for 1 SB execution Number of SB executions 0.12000 arcsec Total time to complete SB 1.17 h Template library. Turn the 12.00000 arcsec 🔻 Calibration Breakdown per SB execution - Template library. 0.01 equivalent to 7.47375 Proposal 1 x SidebandRatio 1.68 min - Planned Ob 1 x Amplitude 2.60 min You can see Frequency Width 0.12 RepresentativeWindowResolution -Science 2 x Bandpass 15.20 min Science how much 4 x Phase 2.40 min Yes \int No Science Suggest 2 x Phase reference check source 20 min Science time you need 6 x Atmospheric 4.00 min Science Time Estimate and get a Science Additional Arrays Science ) O Yes 
No breakdown fadditional 12-m configuration Science Science Time required for additional 12-m 35.13 min Yes No Science ACA 7-m time (t\_12m x 2) 2.34 h New: Total power will not be scheduled Total ACA time (max[t\_7-m,t\_TP]) 2.34 h Science Science when 12m+7m synthesis suffice Science Estimated total time for science goal 4.10 h Science Science Suggestion Science OK

## Time estimates - II

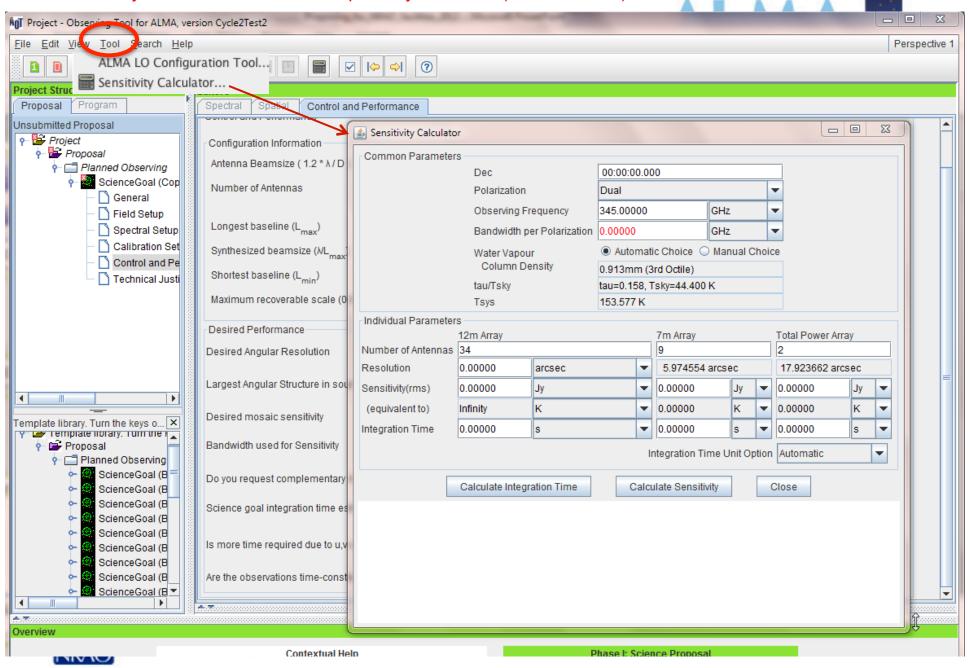


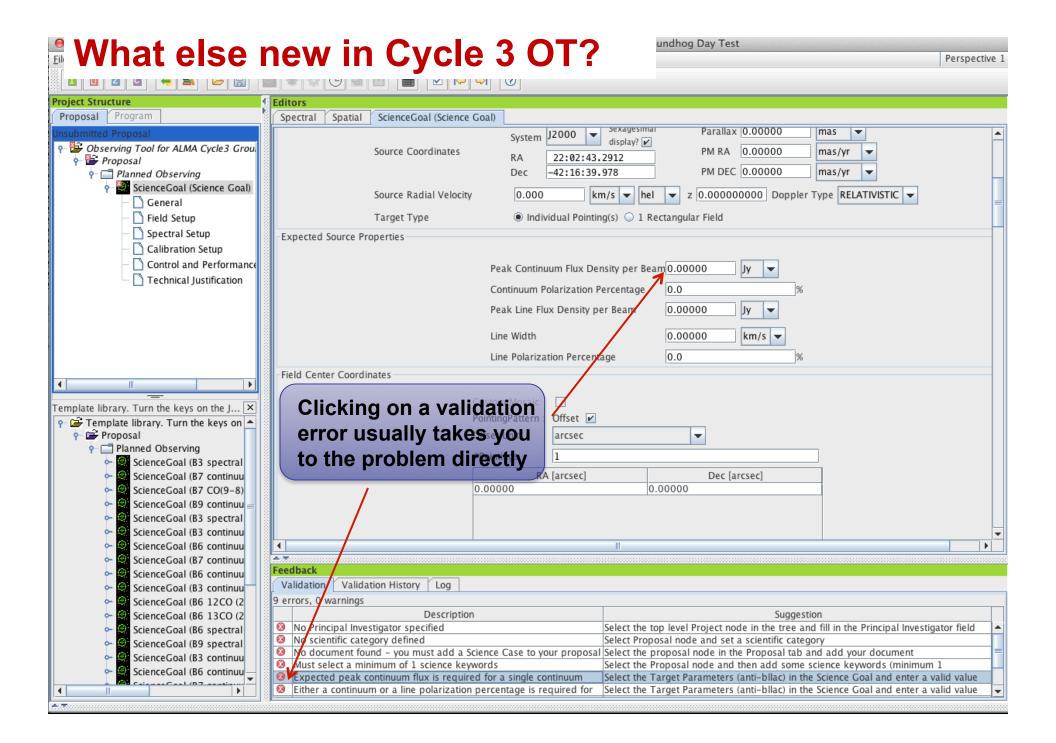


## Time constrained observing



#### The sensitivity calculator is available separately in the OT (or on the web)



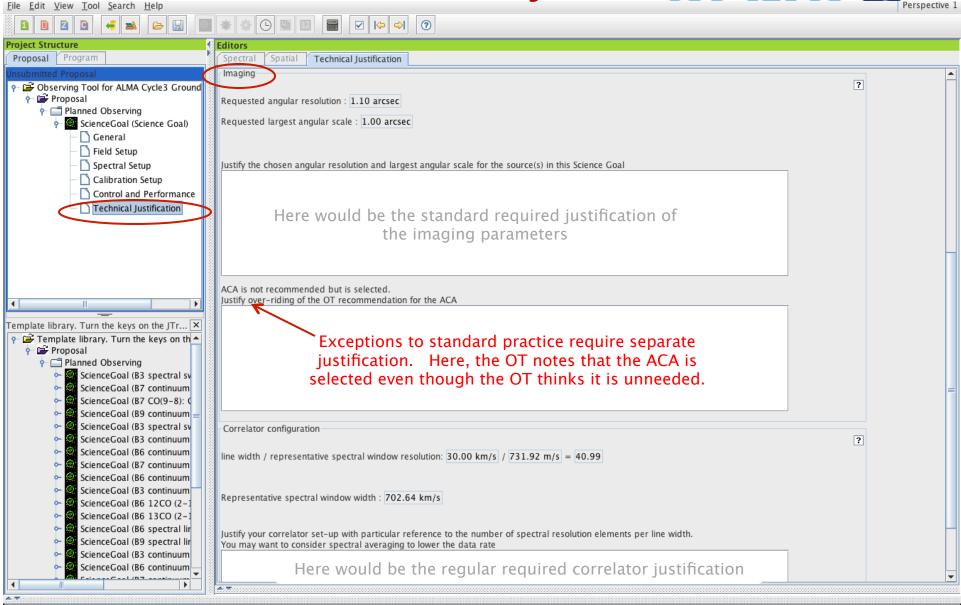


Tech Justification New for Cycle 3!! A A A A File Edit View Tool Search Help Perspective 1 Project Structure Proposal Program Spectral Spatial Technical Justification Enter a Technical Justification for this Science Goal, paying special attention to the parameters reproduced below. Observing Tool for ALMA Cycle3 Ground roposal 🚰 Sensitivity Planned Observing ? ScienceGoal (Science Goal) Requested RMS over 2.4414062500000005E-4 GHz is 3.00 mJy For a peak flux density of 30.00 mJy, the achieved S/N is 10.0 General Field Setup Achieved RMS over the total 351.56 MHz bandwidth is 111.80 uJy For a continuum flux density of 100.00 mJy, the achieved S/N is 894.4 Spectral Setup For a peak line flux of 30.00 mJy, the achieved S/N over 1/3 of the source line width ( 30.00 km/s / 3 = 10.00 km/s ) is 26.1 Calibration Setup Line width / bandwidth used for sensitivity 30.00 km/s / 731.92 m/s = 40.99 Technical Justification Dynamic Range: 33.33 Justify your requested RMS and resulting S/N for the spectral line and/or continuum observations. For line observations also justify the bandwidth used for the sensitivity calculation. Here would be the standard required justification of Template library. Turn the keys on the JTr... 🗙 the sensitivity parameters • Template library. Turn the keys on th Proposal Planned Observing ScienceGoal (B3 spectral sv ScienceGoal (B7 continuum ScienceGoal (B7 CO(9-8): 0 ? ScienceGoal (B9 continuum ScienceGoal (B3 spectral sy There are separate sections for Sensitivity, Imaging and Correlator ScienceGoal (B3 continuum ScienceGoal (B6 continuum ScienceGoal (B7 continuum Each requires its own 50+ word justification ScienceGoal (B6 continuum ScienceGoal (B3 continuum) ScienceGoal (B6 12CO (2-) Each comes with a summary of input information and details of how ScienceGoal (B6 13CO (2-1 it is construed to specify the program ScienceGoal (B6 spectral lir



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## Tech Justification New for Cycle 3 A A A





## **Summary: New for Cycle 3 OT**



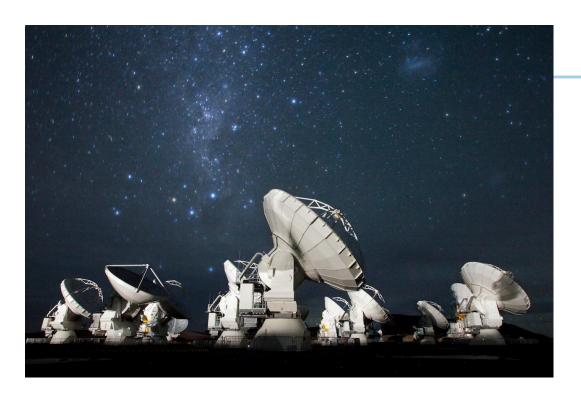
## For Cycle 3, there are a relatively small number of new "ALMA" features:

- + Band 10 (780 950 GHz)
- + Free choice of TDM frequency for full polarization observations (Bands 3, 6 and 7)
- + 36 12-m array, 10 7-m array, 2 TP

#### There are more new "OT" features:

- + Sesame is now used to guery source information
- + A Science Goal can contain multiple sources with rectangular field definitions
- + The TP mapping area is automatically calculated for custom mosaics or single pointings
- + Import/export of pointing positions has been updated slightly
- + Absolute positions can be used for pointing centers
- + "Point source" button has been removed, use 0 for LAS, there is no default
- + TP will not be scheduled if 7-m array can achieve the requested LAS
- + Various improvements to time-constrained interface
- + Technical Justification node completely overhauled
- + Total time for a proposal can be displayed in the main OT GUI Under "Tool" in menu bar







## For more info:

https://almascience.nrao.edu/

The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), an international astronomy facility, is a partnership of Europe, North America and East Asia in cooperation with the Republic of Chile. ALMA is funded in Europe by the European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO), in North America by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) in cooperation with the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) and the National Science Council of Taiwan (NSC), and in East Asia by the National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS) of Japan in cooperation with the Academia Sinica (AS) in Taiwan. ALMA construction and operations are led on behalf of Europe by ESO, on behalf of North America by the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), which is managed by Associated Universities, Inc. (AUI), and on behalf of East Asia by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ). The Joint ALMA Observatory (JAO) provides the unified leadership and management of the construction and operation of ALMA.