



# Information Item

## Update on the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) and the ALMA/ National Radio Astronomy Observatory Management Competition

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# Purpose and Summary

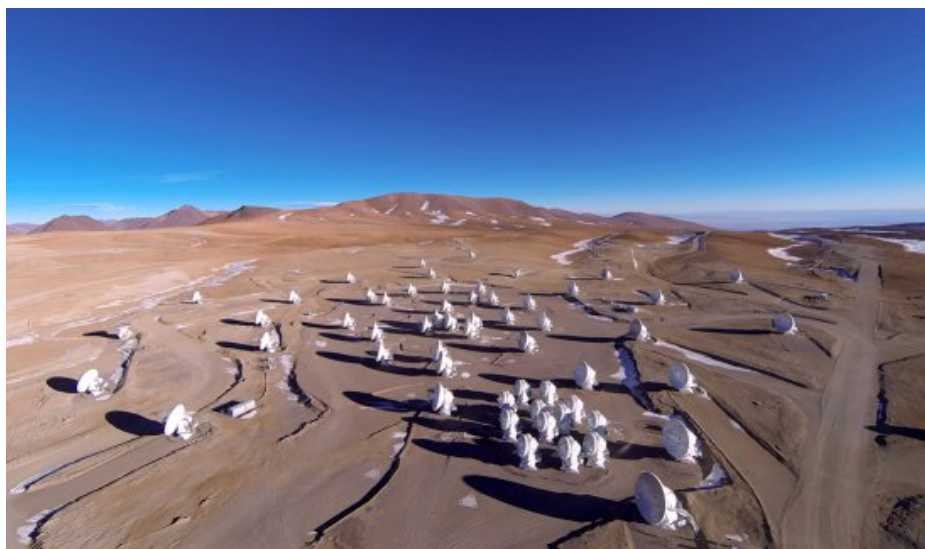
*NSB-11-9: “WHEREAS the NSF Director will provide an information item to the Board annually on ALMA operations and NSF’s planning efforts to recompute ALMA,...”*

- ALMA major construction activities complete; currently in Early Science operations
- Competition of next award for NRAO (including ALMA) management and operation underway
- Information item on NSB action scheduled in May for one-year extension to current Cooperative Agreement



# NA ALMA Construction is Complete

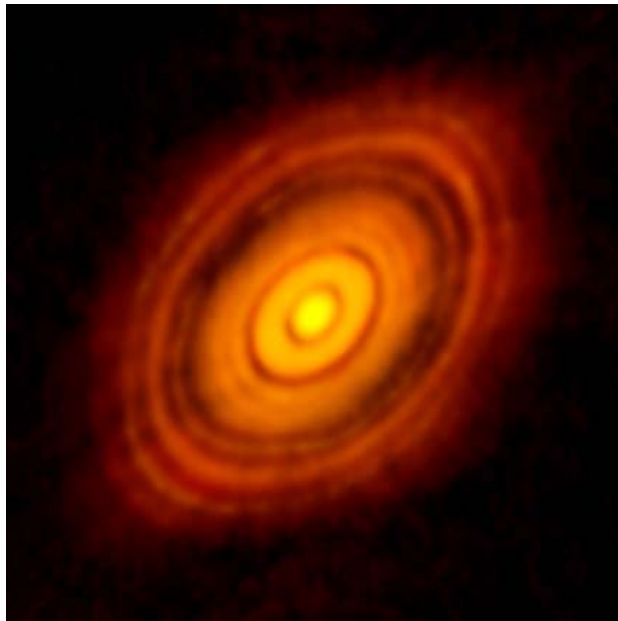
- (...>99.9%)
- No-cost extension issued through March 2015 for punch-list and close-out items
- Forecasting a positive balance at completion of ~\$0.9M (0.2% of North American construction budget)



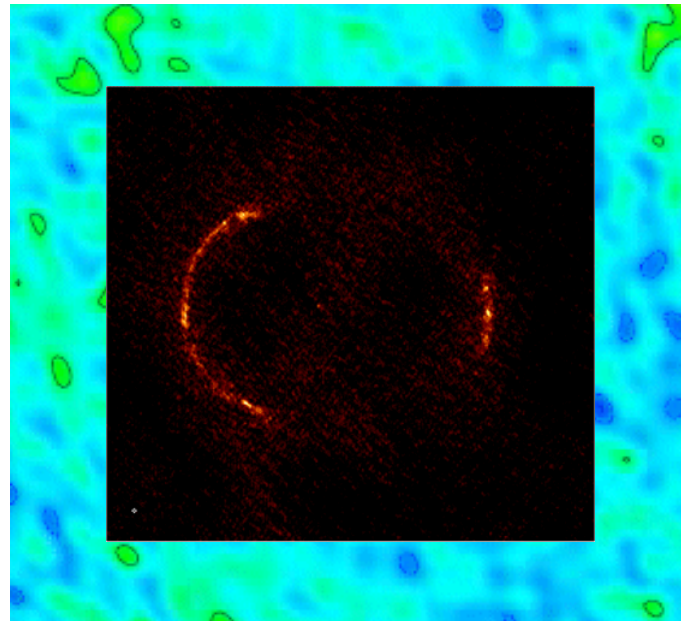


# ALMA in Early Science Cycle 2

- Capabilities (number of antennas, angular resolution, etc.) and available observing time steadily increasing
- Received >1500 proposals from 3400 investigators
- Long-baseline campaign produced spectacular images



HL Tau – a planetary system in the process of formation



SDP.81 – spatially resolving galaxies in the distant Universe



# Status of Competition

- Current NRAO/ALMA Cooperative Agreement (CA) expires at end of FY15
- Jun 2014: issued solicitation for FY17-FY26 management and operation of NRAO, inclusive of ALMA, VLA, headquarters, and development labs
- Jul/Aug 2014: conducted site visits for potential proposing organizations
- Nov 2014: Proposals received; under review during Q1/Q2 2015
- Dec 2014: Externally reviewed supplemental funding request to extend CA through FY16



# Competition Schedule

- **Feb 2015: NSB information item on CA extension**
- May 2015
  - NSB action item on CA extension
  - NSB information item on award for management and operation of NRAO/ALMA
- Nov 2015: NSB action item on award for management and operation of NRAO/ALMA
- Apr 2016: Start of 6-month transition award under new CA for modified scope and potential change in awardee
- Oct 2016: Start of new NRAO/ALMA management and operation award