

Announcement of

ALMA Community Meeting

3–4 September 2007, Garching, Germany

Now ALMA has entered its main construction phase, ESO and RadioNet are organising two back-to-back meetings in Garching, aimed at the European astronomical community.

The ALMA Community Meeting will start at 14:00 on Monday 3 September 2007 and end in the late afternoon of Tuesday 4 September. The aim of this one-and-a-half day meeting is to keep the European astronomical community informed about ALMA progress since the last ALMA Community Day in September 2004. The meeting will provide information about the project status, and additional reports on other ALMA activities such as the status of software. The definition of the ALMA Operations Plan and the organisation of the European ALMA Regional Centre (ARC) has considerably advanced during the last year. Plans for ALMA operation and for the organisation of the ARC network in Europe will be presented and discussed at the Community Meeting, with the aim of obtaining feedback

from future ALMA users. Also, a sample of exciting recent scientific results, relevant to ALMA and the opportunities afforded by ALMA in its Early Science phase, will be presented.

The “Surveys for ALMA” workshop will directly follow the Community Meeting, starting on Wednesday 5 September, and end at lunchtime on Thursday 6 September. The rationale behind this meeting is as follows. While ALMA is being constructed in Chile, several ground-based millimetre and submillimetre observatories worldwide are being upgraded and are now coming online. The excellent wide-field survey capabilities of large bolometer arrays such as LABOCA and SCUBA-2 on single-dish sub-millimetre telescopes such as APEX and the JCMT, and the upgraded (sub-)millimetre arrays, such as IRAM, allow prospective ALMA users to develop ambitious science projects and prepare for the use of ALMA. During the first years of operation of ALMA, the Herschel Space Observatory

Surveys for ALMA Workshop

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and the Planck mission will also be operational, and provide unprecedented far-infrared survey capabilities. The progress in wide-field near-IR detectors on dedicated telescopes such as VISTA will also provide a major new data set for ALMA follow-up observations. The aim of this one-and-a-half day meeting is to coordinate the planning of these preparatory surveys for ALMA, and to solicit feedback from the community in the planning of the early science follow-up with ALMA from these surveys. The potential for deep legacy type surveys with the completed ALMA array in 2012 will also be briefly discussed.

If you would like to register for one or both of these meetings, or would like to obtain further information, please visit <http://www.eso.org/projects/alma/science/meetings/gar-sep07/>

The registration deadline is 13 July 2007.

Announcement of the MPA/ESO/MPE/USM 2007 Joint Astronomy Conference on

Gas Accretion and Star Formation in Galaxies

10–14 September 2007, Garching, Germany

This meeting will focus on the following question: how does gas get into galaxies and what are the processes that regulate the rate at which the gas then turns into stars? The conference will bring together both theoreticians and observational astronomers working at different wavelengths, using different techniques, both at low and at high redshifts. The topics to be addressed in the conference are:

1. H_I observations of gas in and around nearby galaxies
2. The relation between atomic and molecular gas
3. Insights into the gas-star cycle in galaxies from new panchromatic data sets

4. Theoretical models and empirical constraints on the global efficiency with which gas is converted into stars in galaxies
5. Gas inflow mechanisms
6. Feedback processes in galaxies
7. The nature of the Warm/Hot Intergalactic Medium (WHIM). Does gas cool from the hot phase? Insights from XMM/Chandra
8. Physical constraints on gas in the vicinity of galaxies from quasar absorption lines
9. Star formation in high-redshift galaxies

Scientific Advisory Committee: Jacqueline Bergeron (IAP), Andi Burkert (MPIA), Chris Carilli (NRAO), Françoise Combes (ObsPM), Andy Fabian (IoA), Reinhard Genzel (MPE), Ortwin Gerhard (MPE), Tim Heckman (JHU), Guinevere Kauffmann (MPA), Rob Kennicutt (IoA), Eliot Quataert (University of California, Berkeley), Piero Rosati (ESO), Renzo Sancisi (INAF), Ken Sembach (STScI), Mike Shull (University of Colorado, Boulder), Ian Smail (Durham), Jonathan Tan (ETH, Zurich)

Further information can be found at <http://www.mpa-garching.mpg.de/~gassf07/>



A field of 'White Penitents'
– ice sculpted by solar radiation –
at the high altitude of the
ALMA site at Llano de Chajnantor.