



Figure 1. Panoramic view of the Chajnantor plateau by night, showing many antennas of the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA).

scientists around the world, around one tenth of which were scheduled for observation. Although the technical capabilities offered in Cycle 0 are limited compared to those envisaged for Full Science Operations, the data obtained are already of remarkable accuracy and quality. In Cycle 1, an enhanced set of ALMA technical capabilities and a larger array of antennas will be offered to the astronomical community. While the building and commissioning of the full array will continue throughout this observing

cycle, the fraction of time available for Early Science observations is expected to increase as the array nears completion. Additionally, the higher sensitivity and technical capacity of ALMA in Cycle 1 has the potential to yield ground-breaking scientific results largely surpassing those achievable using existing facilities.

The aim of the 2012 Community Days is to prepare the European astronomical community for Cycle 1 of ALMA Early Science Operations. The first day will fea-

ture a series of technical and scientific presentations related to ALMA, the European ARC and capabilities in Cycle 1. The remainder of the workshop will be dedicated to hands-on tutorials focusing on the preparation of Cycle 1 observing proposals using the ALMA Observing Tool (OT). Depending on their level of expertise, the workshop participants will be given the choice of attending either a compact one-day tutorial or a more exhaustive two-day session. This should enable novice and advanced ALMA users alike to create observing projects making full use of the unique capabilities of ALMA during Cycle 1.

Further information can be found at: www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2012/alma_es_2012.html

Announcement of the

NEON Observing School 2012

10–22 September 2012, Asiago Observatory, Italy



The Network of European Observatories in the North (NEON: Asiago Observatory [Italy], Calar Alto Observatory [Germany, Spain], European Southern Observatory, Haute Provence Observatory [France], and La Palma Observatory [ING and NOT: UK, the Netherlands, Spain and the Nordic Countries]) is holding the 10th NEON Observing Summer School this year at the Asiago Observatory in the Veneto region of northern Italy.

The purpose of the school is to provide an opportunity to gain practical experience in observation and data reduction in astrophysics. The observing runs will take place at the 1.82-metre Cima Ekar and 1.22-metre Galileo telescopes focusing on modern astrophysical topics. The observations, data reduction and analysis

will be conducted under the supervision of experienced astronomers. The hands-on sessions are complemented by lectures on observational techniques.

The school is open preferentially to PhD students and postdocs in astrophysics who are nationals of a Member State or an Associate State of the European Union, but some places will also be available for nationals of surrounding countries.

The application deadline is 20 April 2012.

More details can be found at: <http://www.iap.fr/neon/> or by email to: neon2012@iap.fr