

ALMA Vacancy Notice

The Joint ALMA Office invites applications for positions of:

Commissioning Scientists

These are international staff positions in the ALMA Project, the world's most sensitive mm/submm interferometer, which is currently under construction in northern Chile.

Duties: The role of ALMA Commissioning Scientists is to assist the Project Scientist and Deputy Project Scientist in planning and executing the scientific commissioning of ALMA. In order to bring ALMA into full scientific operation, the commissioning team of scientists and engineers will devise testing procedures for new equipment and observing modes, carry out measurements, and interpret results.

Professional requirements / Qualifications:

Applicants for this position must have a PhD in astronomy or related field. Demonstrated skills in the following areas would be an advantage, but are not required:

- Knowledge of computing languages (python, xml, etc);
- Development of data reduction and analysis software;
- Experience trouble-shooting hardware in a Linux environment.

In addition to the above criteria, the successful candidates will meet the following requirements:

- Experience in working in a multidisciplinary team environment;
- Working knowledge of or the willingness to learn Spanish;

- High level of communication and negotiation in English.

Successful applicants will be expected to participate in the full range of commissioning activities, but may take the lead on some aspect of testing based on their background and interests. The Commissioning Scientists are encouraged to continue an active program of independent research, and time and resources will be made available for this.

Duty station: Santiago, these positions require a significant amount of time working at the ALMA sites at the Operations Support Facility (2900m elevation) and occasionally at the Array Operations Site (5000m elevation) near San Pedro de Atacama, Chile.

A successful high altitude medical check is a necessary condition for this position.

Starting date: As soon as possible.

Contract: Appointments will be for a period of three years. These positions are funded from the construction project, which will be largely completed by the end of 2012, and members of the commissioning team will be in a very strong position to apply for long-term posts in Joint ALMA Observatory Science Operations which will be become available during and after the construction phase.

Remuneration: ALMA international staff will be recruited as employees of either ESO or AUI/NRAO. ESO and AUI/NRAO offer attractive remuneration packages including a competitive salary, comprehensive social benefits, and provide financial support in relocating families. Furthermore, an expatriation allowance as well as some other allowances may be added.

Applications with a cover letter specifying the position of interest should be sent to the Personnel Office, at either of the following addresses: ESO, Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2, Garching, D-85748 Germany; or NRAO, 520 Edgemont Road, Charlottesville VA 22903, USA.

ALMA Vacancy Notice

Applicants submitting their application to ESO are invited to apply online at <https://jobs.eso.org/>.

Closing date for applications is **15th May 2009**.

The position requires three letters of reference which shall be sent to vacancy@eso.org.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Alison Peck at apec@alma.cl.

The NRAO/ESO are equal opportunity employers. The post is equally open to suitably qualified male and female applicants.