Astronomy Australia Ltd.

ALMA SCIENCE LEAD

Call for nominations to lead Australia's science engagement with the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA)

Applications for all positions close on Thursday 5th November, 9:00 AM AEDT.

If openings remain after all applications received by the deadline have been considered, late applications will be accepted.

Astronomy Australia Limited (AAL) is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee whose members are all Australian universities and research organisations with a significant astronomy research capability. Its core business is to manage programmes which provide astronomers with access to national astronomy infrastructure, including data and computing infrastructure.

AAL finances a portfolio of infrastructure projects and facilities from Australian Government funding. AAL oversees the progress of these projects and reports regularly on them to the Government.

ALMA

The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) is an international partnership operating a major astronomical facility on the Chajnantor Plateau in northern Chile. ALMA provides exceptional sensitivity, resolution and frequency coverage for millimetre and submillimetre astronomy, supporting research across areas including star and planet formation, galaxies, cosmology and the cold Universe.

ALMA is a unique facility without a direct equivalent, and securing improved Australian access through a strategic partnership has been a longstanding objective of the Australian astronomy community. Improved access would create strong synergies with Australian-led optical and radio astronomy programmes and provide opportunities for Australian scientific and technical leadership.

AAL is seeking written applications from astronomers interested in serving as the Australian ALMA Science Lead. The Science Lead will support and represent the scientific interests of the Australian astronomy community in relation to ALMA and help coordinate Australia's engagement with ALMA partners and relevant international organisations.

The successful applicant must be an Australian-based astronomer with an active and successful research career directly relevant to ALMA. Significant experience using ALMA or other millimetre or submillimetre facilities will be highly valued, as will experience with international astronomy collaborations, major research infrastructure and community engagement.

Key attributes for this role include:

- Demonstrated scientific leadership in an area relevant to ALMA.
- A strong understanding of ALMA's current capabilities, scientific priorities and future development plans.
- Experience using ALMA data or leading or contributing to ALMA observing proposals.
- An understanding of the needs and capabilities of the Australian millimetre and submillimetre astronomy community.
- Experience engaging with international observatories, research organisations or major astronomy projects.
- The ability to represent the interests and capabilities of the broader Australian astronomy community.
- A demonstrated ability to engage and communicate effectively with Australian astronomers and research institutions.
- The ability to identify and develop opportunities for scientific, technical and strategic collaboration.

As ALMA Science Lead, you will be expected to engage regularly with AAL, relevant Australian researchers and ALMA stakeholders. You may be asked to contribute to discussions concerning future Australian access to ALMA, help coordinate Australian scientific input, identify opportunities for collaboration, and provide advice to AAL on scientific priorities and emerging opportunities.

The role may also support engagement concerning ALMA's future development, including opportunities for Australian contributions in instrumentation, receiver technology, data processing, software, archiving and science platforms.

The Science Lead will be expected to take an inclusive, community-wide approach and to communicate relevant opportunities and developments to the broader Australian astronomy community.

The AAL ALMA Science Lead will be appointed for a two-year term, commencing in January 2027.

Applications

If you consider yourself well placed to serve as the AAL ALMA Science Lead, please email Dr Brent Groves (cc: info@astronomyaustralia.org.au) with a maximum three-page application including:

- A covering letter describing your expertise relevant to ALMA and your interest in supporting Australian engagement with the facility.
- A brief CV.
- Any relevant conflicts of interest.

Any questions regarding the position or the application process are welcome.

AAL encourages applications from all interested candidates with the appropriate skills and expertise. AAL specifically considers gender balance across committee appointments and seeks to maximise the number of AAL member institutions involved with AAL committees.