

Asunto: EVNtech: GMVA Call for Proposals: Deadline 1 February 2017

De: [REDACTED]@mpifr-bonn.mpg.de (Richard Porcas)

Fecha: 2/1/17 10:57

Para: vlbi@nrao.EDU, evntech@jb.man.ac.uk, ivsmail@ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov,
[REDACTED]

CC: [REDACTED]@mpifr-bonn.mpg.de

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

GLOBAL 3mm VLBI ARRAY

Deadline: 1 February 2017

VLBI proposals for observing at 3mm wavelength (86 GHz) using:
the VLBA, GBT*, EFFELSBURG, PICO VELETA, ONSALA, METSAEHOVI,
YEBES and KVN telescopes should be submitted by

1 FEBRUARY 2017 (UT 22:00)

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Successful proposals will be considered for scheduling in GMVA
Session II 2017 (28 September - 3 October) or in a later session.

- * SEE ALSO THE SECTION BELOW REGARDING PROPOSALS FOR GMVA
- * OBSERVATIONS TOGETHER WITH PHASED-ALMA IN ALMA CYCLE 5

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| ALL PROPOSALS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED USING
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| THE NRAO PROPOSAL SUBMISSION TOOL (PST):
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| https://my.nrao.edu
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In order to maximize the sensitivity for continuum observations the GMVA will record at the highest bitrate which instrumentation and resources permit. All telescopes will record at 2 Gbps except for the KVN, which will record in a compatible 1 Gbps mode. All data will be correlated at the Bonn DiFX software correlator.

* The GBT may be included in GMVA observations if a sufficiently compelling justification is given in the proposal but the amount of time available will be reduced compared to earlier observing semesters, and observing blocks greater than 6 hours will be very difficult to schedule.

The KVN can be selected using the "Other Stations" text field in the PST.

Note that PLATEAU DE BURE will not be available for GMVA sessions in 2017.

For further details on proposing, including the possibility of additional support observations at 7mm (43 GHz), please consult the administrative and technical information hosted at the MPIfR:

<http://www3.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/div/vlbi/globalmm>

PARTICIPATION OF ALMA IN GMVA OBSERVATIONS IN ALMA CYCLE 5
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It is expected that phased ALMA will participate in some GMVA observations during ALMA Cycle 5 (Oct. 2017 - Sept. 2018). See ALMA Cycle-5 pre-announcement:

<https://almascience.nrao.edu/news/alma-cycle-5-pre-announcement>

There are likely to be between 35 and 43 ALMA antennas available; only those within a 1 km radius will be part of the phased sum.

ALMA will not be in a configuration suitable for VLBI during GMVA Session II 2017.

GMVA session dates for 2018 during Cycle 5 are not yet fixed but:

- * Session I, which is likely to be in the period March-May 2018, should provide an opportunity for GMVA+ALMA observing.
- * Session II, which is likely to be in September 2018, may also overlap Cycle 5 with ALMA in a configuration suitable for VLBI.

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* Any new GMVA proposal requesting phased ALMA during Cycle 5 must *
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* be submitted via the NRAO PST at the 1 February 2017 deadline. *
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Proposers should:

- specify "ALMA" in the Other Stations text field in the PST
- select the default GMVA 3mm observing mode of 2 Gbps, dual polarization.
- specify the amount of time and GST range(s) needed for ALMA separately, either in Session Constraints or Comments, or in the Technical Justification.

A separate proposal to ALMA must also be submitted at the deadline

for ALMA Cycle 5 proposals on 16th April 2017. For this, all proposers (PI's and Co-I's) must be registered ALMA users.

(see: www.almascience.org)

Resubmission of ALMA Cycle 4 proposals

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The outcome of GMVA+ALMA Cycle 4 observations scheduled in April 2017 is unlikely to be known until after the ALMA Cycle 5 proposal deadline. If the PI wishes to mitigate against the possibility that these observations are not completed successfully, the proposal must be resubmitted to ALMA by the Cycle 5 proposal deadline and undergo a new review. The proposal does not need to be resubmitted to the GMVA in this case. Observations in Cycle 5 will only occur if the April 2017 observations are not completed successfully and the ALMA Cycle 5 proposal is ranked high enough for scheduling.

However, if the PI wishes to obtain a second epoch of GMVA+ALMA observations, even if the April 2017 observations are successful, a new proposal must be submitted to both the GMVA and ALMA by their respective proposal deadlines.

Restrictions on GMVA+ALMA proposals in ALMA Cycle 5

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GMVA observations with ALMA will be limited to a fixed recording mode, which will provide 2 Gbps on all baselines. The KVN telescopes will not be available in this mode. Only VLBA telescopes will be available at 7mm in this mode.

Due to the need to phase up on target sources they will be restricted to those with a flux density >0.5 Jy contained within an unresolved core on ALMA baselines up to 1 km.

In order to make a clean linear-to-circular transformation of ALMA recordings, any target source must be observed for a duration of at least 3h (breaks for calibrators permitted) to sample a range of parallactic angles.

Large Programs (>50 hours of observing time) are not permitted because phased ALMA is a non-standard mode.

No long-term programs may be proposed, and no proposals will be carried over into the next cycle.

There is a cap for VLBI of 5% of ALMA Cycle 5 observing time. As time for GMVA observations will thus be scarce, proposals should include a quantitative justification as to why ALMA is essential for the goals of the project.