



10th August, 2009

Mr. Christopher Martin
Dept. of Physics and Astronomy
OBERLIN COLLEGE
110 N. Professor St., Oberlin, OH 44074
USA

Ref.: MRI-R2 Development of the Atacama Sub-millimeter Telescope Robotic Observatory (ASTRO)

Dear Chris:

The ALMA Observatory is excited to learn of your proposal to the National Science Foundation entitled: "MRI-R2: Development of the Atacama Sub-millimeter Telescope Robotic Observatory (ASTRO)." We welcome your contribution to the tremendous science being done on the Atacama plateau and look forward to your project joining us in the exploration of the universe.

We are intrigued by your plans to make an extensive large scale map of the CO emission in the galactic plane and your use of cutting edge array receiver technologies; in particular, since ALMA itself has benefited from the years of ever improving designs from the receiver community.

Should your project be funded by the NSF, ALMA will be happy to support your group and possibly to enable you to make use of the planned power and telecommunications infrastructure on the plateau. The running costs, of course, will have to be reimbursed.

While obviously ALMA cannot be responsible for any of the technical details or operation of your instrument, we will be happy to share with you the lessons we have learned in working on the high plateau and to coordinate matters of safety with your team and assist to the success of your project.

Yours sincerely,

Thijs de Graauw
ALMA Director