



EUROPEAN ARC

ALMA Centre of Expertise || Portuguese

# ALMA Observing Tool (AOT)

Ciro Pappalardo (IA – CAAUL – OA Lisboa)



SFRH/BPD/90559/2012  
Pest-OE/FIS/UI2751/2014  
PTDC/FIS-AST/2194/2012



# Motivation:

**In the past optical and radio astronomer did not have a big interaction:**



**E. Hubble formulated the Hubble's law in 1929. He was a lawyer but did not have a big motivation to practice.**

**After the construction of the 5.1m Hale Telescope in Mount Palomar he worked there as astronomer**



**K. Jansky discovered radio waves in 1933.**

**He wanted to continue the exploration of this signal, but Bell Labs was not interested in the project. They gave him another assignment and he never worked as a radio astronomer.**

**ALMA is an interferometer conceived to be used by the entire scientific community. For this reason the software developer managed to build a user friendly tool to explore the potential of the ALMA's antennae and the feasibility of a project:**

**ALMA Observing Tool (AOT)**

# Step 1: Download the AOT from the ALMA website



Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array  
In search of our Cosmic Origins



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ESO NRAO NAOJ

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## Observing Tool

The **ALMA Observing Tool** (OT) is a Java application used for the preparation and submission of **ALMA** Phase I (observing proposal) and Phase II (telescope runfiles for accepted proposals) materials. The current *Cycle 2* release of the OT is configured for the Early Science Capabilities of **ALMA** as described in the [Cycle 2 Call For Proposals](#). Note that in order to submit proposals you will have to register with the **ALMA** Science Portal beforehand.

## Download & Installation

The OT will run on most common operating systems, as long as you have Java 6 or above installed (see the [troubleshooting page](#) if you are experiencing Java problems). The **ALMA** OT is available in two flavours: Web Start and tarball.

The **Web Start** application is the recommended way of using the OT. It has the advantage that the OT is automatically downloaded and installed on your computer and it will also automatically detect and install updates. There are some issues with Web Start, particularly that it does not work with the Open JDK versions of Java such as the "Jed Tea" flavour common in many modern Linux installations. The Sun/Oracle variant of Java should therefore be installed instead. If this is not possible, then the tarball installation of the OT is available.

The **tarball** version must be installed manually and will not automatically update itself, however there should be no installation issues. For Linux users, we also provide a download complete with a recommended version of the Java run time environment. Please use this if you have any problems running the OT tarball install with your default Java.

**WebStart**

**Tarball**

## Documentation

Extensive documentation is available to help you work with the OT and optimally prepare your proposal:

- If you are a novice OT user you should start with the [OT Quickstart Guide](#), which takes you through the basic steps of **ALMA** proposal preparation.
- Audio-visual illustrations of different aspects of the OT can be found in the [OT video tutorials](#). These are recommended for novices and advanced users alike.
- More in-depth information on the OT can be found in the [User Manual](#), while concise explanations of all fields and menu items in the OT are given in

# Installation

Download ALMA0T.tar  
(is a standalone version)

```
> tar -xvf ALMA0T.tar  
> cd ALMA0T-Cycle2/setup  
> ./Setup-Linux.sh  
> cd ..  
> ./ALMA-0T.sh
```

What would you like to do?

- Create a new proposal
  - Create a new DDT proposal
  - Open an existing project from disk
  - Retrieve a project from the ALMA science archive
- Do not show this message again

OK

# Start

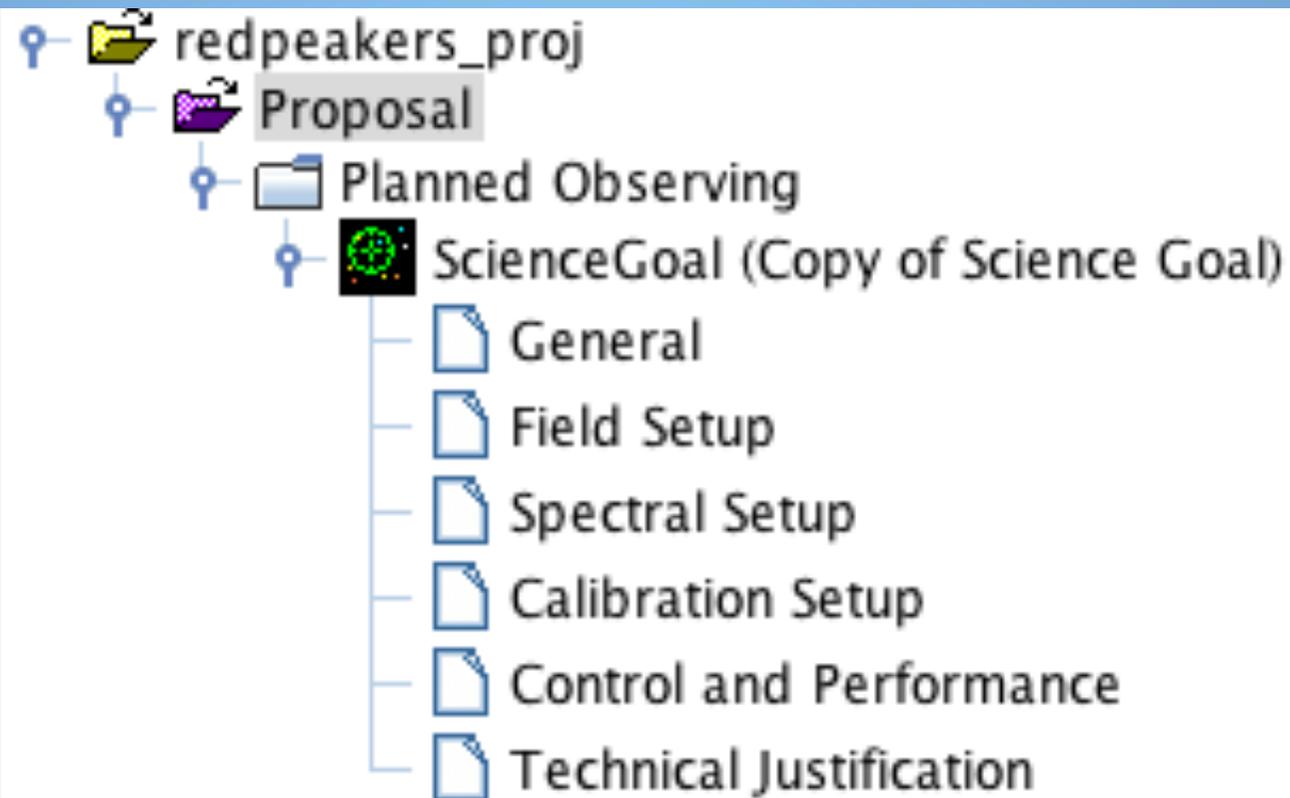
## Menu Project Tree PI Selection (NEED TO BE REGISTERED)

The screenshot displays a software interface with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Tool, Search, Help) and a toolbar. The interface is divided into several panels:

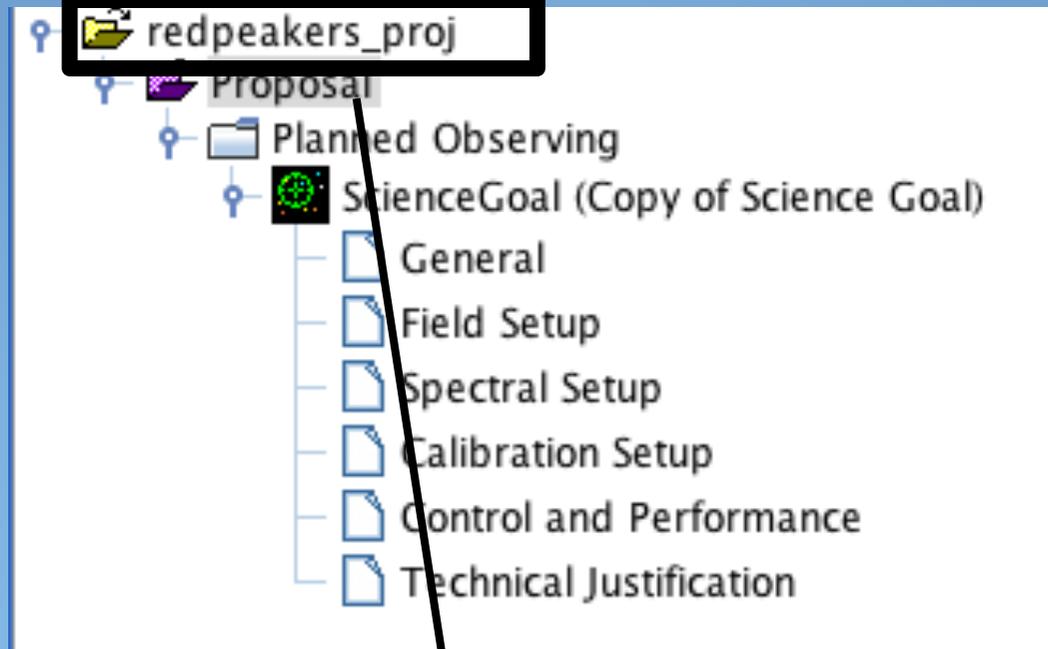
- Project Structure:** Shows a tree view under 'Unsubmitted Proposal' with a 'Project' folder containing a 'Proposal' sub-item. An arrow points from the 'Project Tree' text to this panel.
- Editors:** Contains a 'Project' tab with the following fields:
  - Principal Investigator:** A text input field with a 'Select PI...' button next to it. An arrow points from the 'PI Selection' text to this button.
  - Main Project Information:** A section with three fields: 'Project' (empty), 'Assigned Priority' (empty), and 'Project Code' (containing 'None Assigned').
- Feedback:** Contains tabs for 'Validation', 'Validation History', and 'Log'. Below these is a table with columns for 'Description' and 'Suggestion'.

At the bottom of the interface, there is an 'Overview' panel.

# Menu':

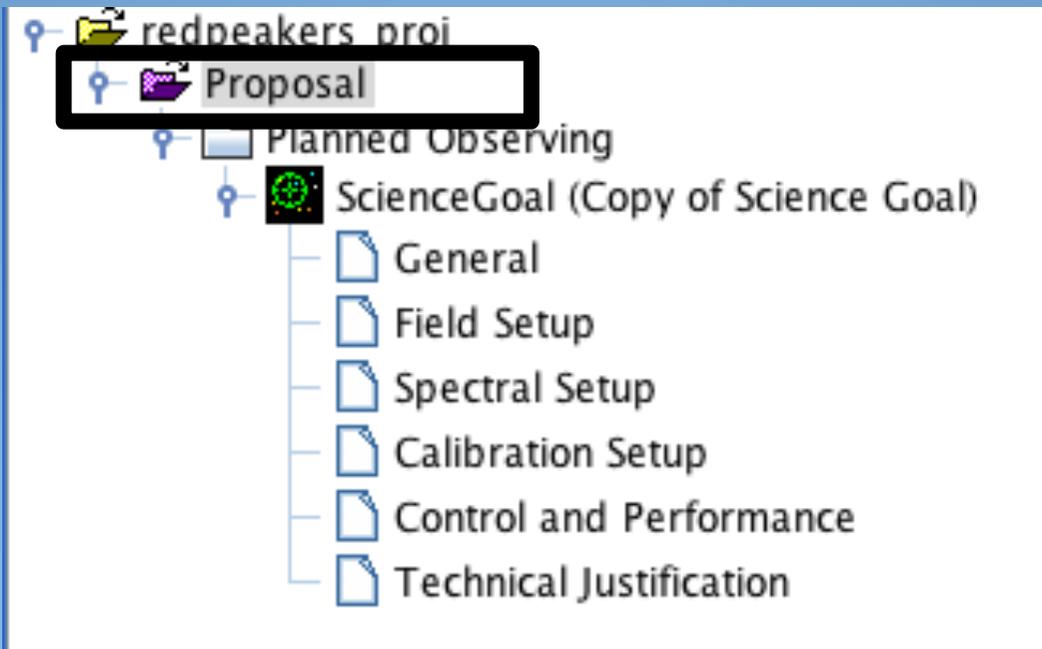


# Menu':



The screenshot shows the software interface with two main panels. The left panel, titled 'Project Structure', shows a tree view with 'redpeakers\_proj' and 'Proposal' under a 'SUBMITTED' status. The right panel, titled 'Editors', has tabs for 'Spectral', 'Spatial', and 'redpeakers\_proj'. It contains two sections: 'Principal Investigator' with a text field containing 'Ciro Pappalardo (ciro@oal.ul.pt)' and a 'Select PI...' button; and 'Main Project Information' with fields for 'Project' (containing 'redpeakers\_proj'), 'Assigned Priority', and 'Project Code' (containing '2013.1.01373.S'). A black arrow points from the 'ScienceGoal' folder in the top screenshot to the 'Project' field in the 'Main Project Information' section.

# Menu':



File Edit View Tool Search Help Perspective 1

**Project Structure** | **Editors**

Proposal | Program

**SUBMITTED**

- redpeakers\_proj
  - Proposal
    - Planned Observing
      - ScienceGoal (Copy of Science Goal)
        - General
        - Field Setup
        - Spectral Setup
        - Calibration Setup
        - Control and Performance
        - Technical Justification

**Editors**

Spectral | Spatial | Proposal

Proposal Information

Proposal Title: redpeakers\_proj

Proposal Cycle: 2013.1

Abstract (max. 1200 characters):  
We propose to observe a sample of 15 background galaxies detected with the Herschel Space Observatory in which there are clearly signs of alien life. Using the enhanced ALMA capabilities of Cycle 2 we will determine the age of these targets and with these data we will put a new constraint on the possibility of the existence of the alien.

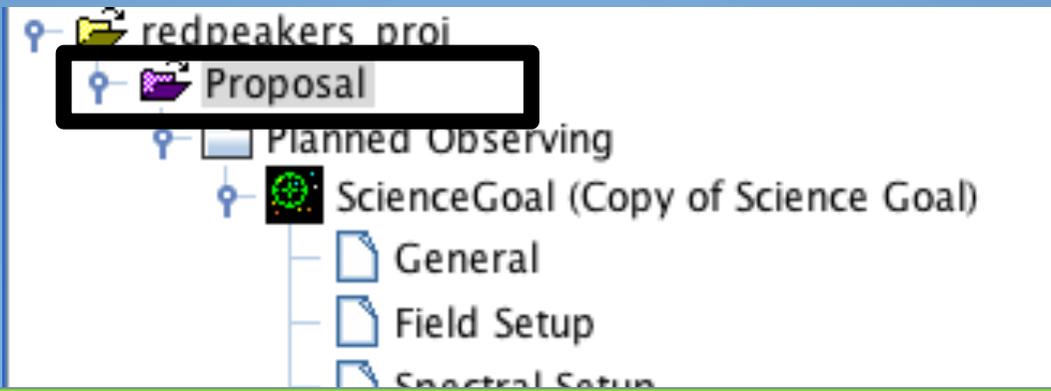
Launch Editor

Proposal Type:  Standard  Target Of Opportunity

Scientific Category:

- Cosmology and the High Redshift Universe
- Galaxies and Galactic Nuclei
- ISM, star formation and astrochemistry
- Circumstellar disks, exoplanets and the solar system
- Stellar Evolution and the Sun

# Menu':



**Editors**

Spectral Spatial **Proposal**

Related Proposals

Previous Proposals

Investigators ?

Type	Full name	Email	Affiliation	ALMA ID	Executive
PI	Ciro Pappalardo	ciro@oal.ul.pt	Centre for Astronomy...	ciropappalardo	Europe

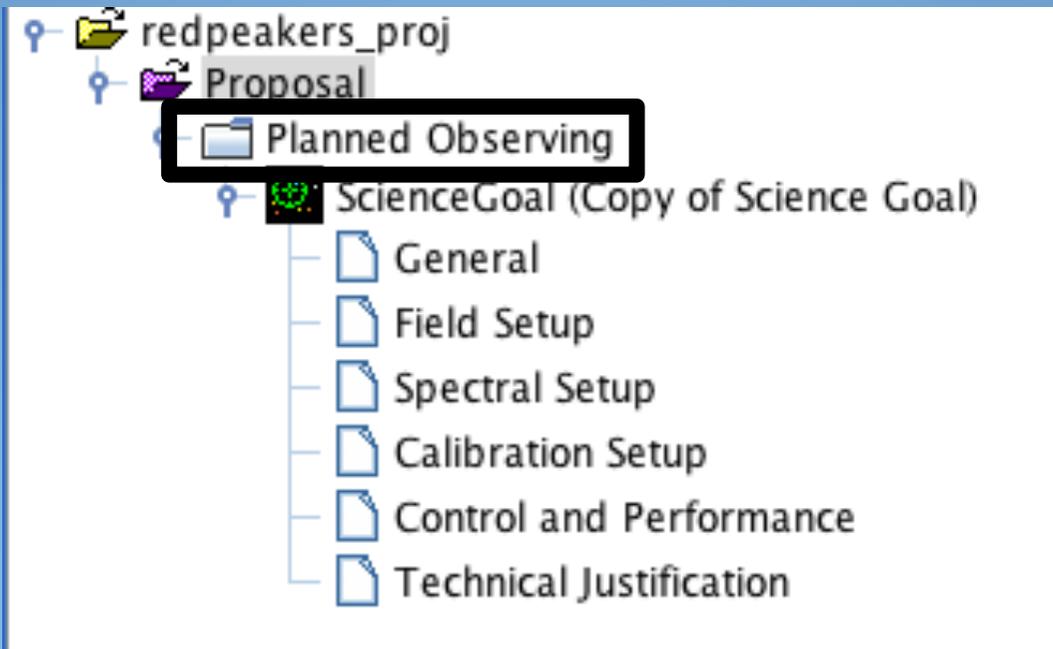
Select PI... Add Col... Remove Col Add from Proposal...

Science & Technical Case ?

Science & Technical Case (Mandatory, PDF, 4 pages max.) **prop\_carma.pdf** Attach... Detach View...

Observatory Use Only ? +

# Menu':



**Project Structure**

Proposal Program

**SUBMITTED**

- redpeakers\_proj
  - Proposal
    - Planned Observing
      - ScienceGoal (Copy of Science Goal)
        - General
        - Field Setup
        - Spectral Setup
        - Calibration Setup
        - Control and Performance
        - Technical Justification

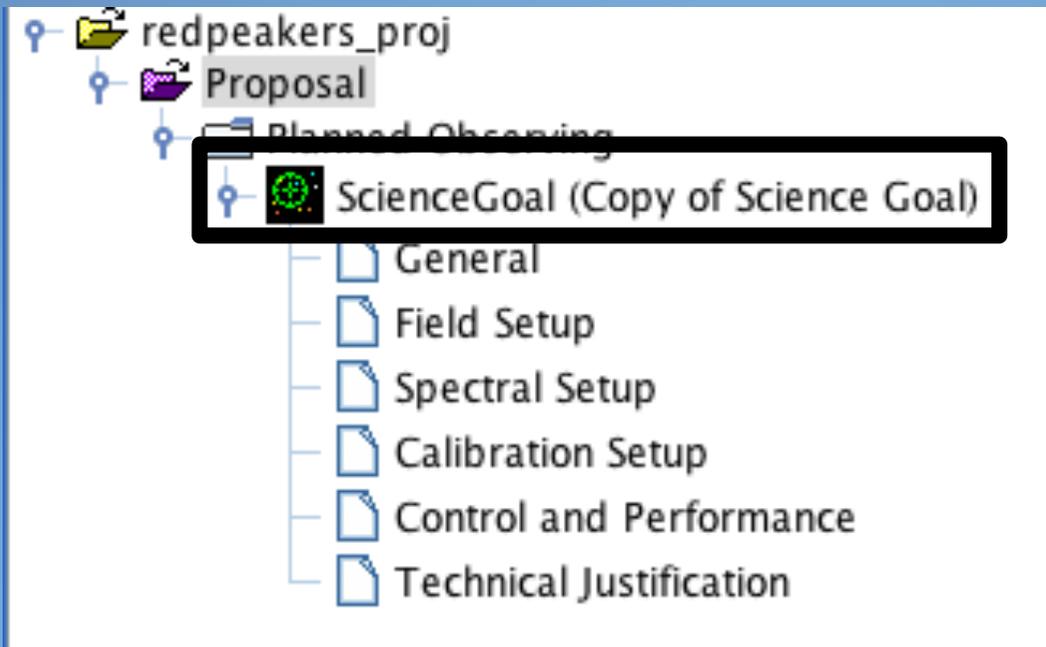
**Editors**

Spectral Spatial Planned Observing

Table of the science goals. Double click on table to select science goal in project tree.

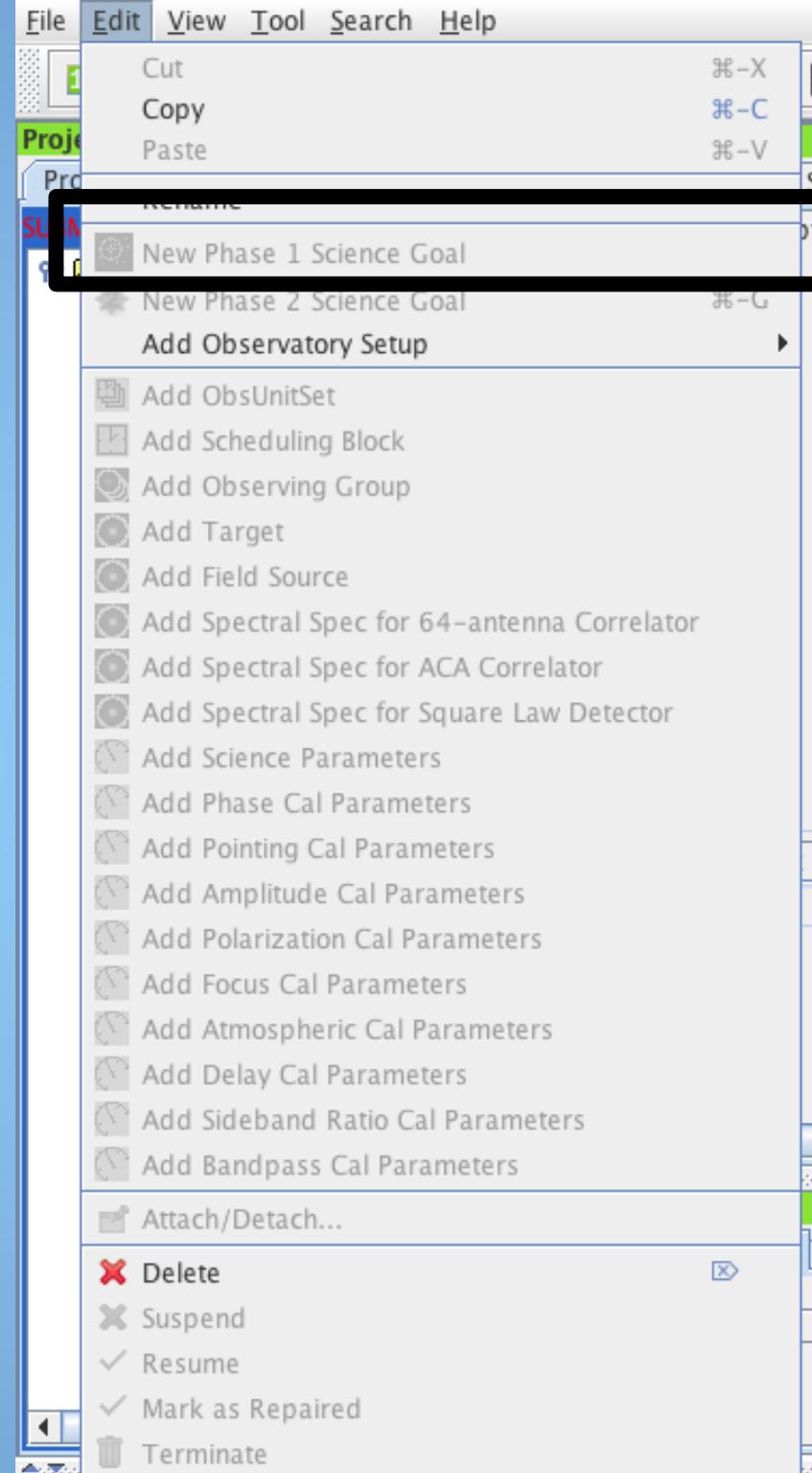
Science Goal	No. Sources	Band	Spec. Type	No. Spec. Win.	Pol.	Cal. Setup	Ang. Res.	Largest Scale	Rep. Freq.	Sens.
Copy of Science Goal	15	3	Scan	20	Dual	System	3.754 arc...	0.0 arcsec	99.438 GHz	1 mJy

# Menu':



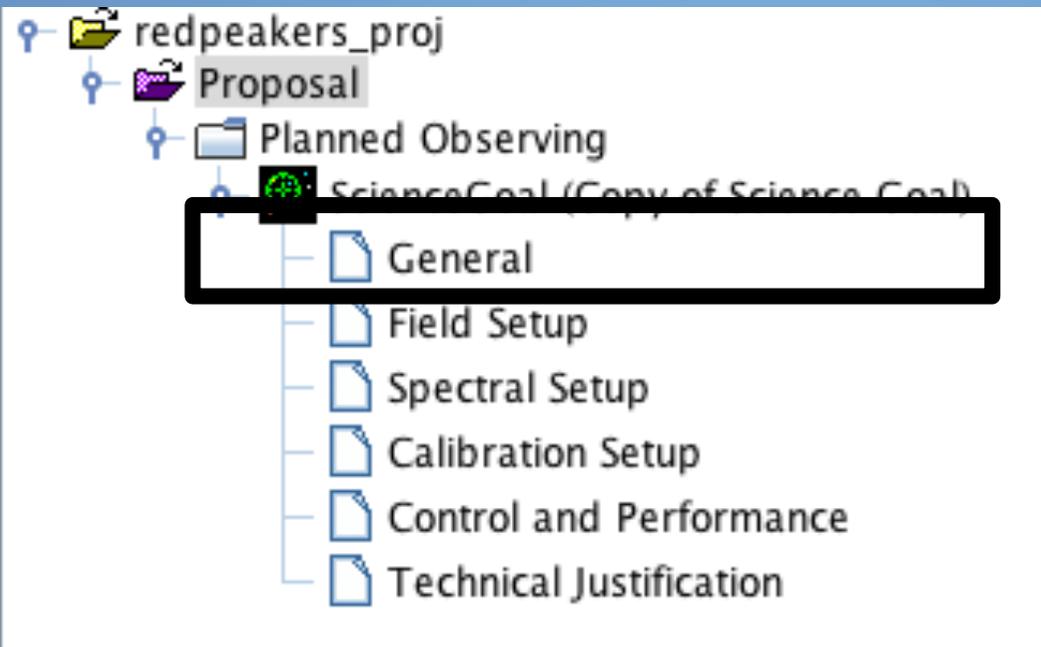
**Science goal describes the observations necessary to achieve the scientific objective. If you plan to observe different bands you need to create a Science goal for each band. If you plan to observe with the Atacama Compact Array (ACA) you need a different science goal:**

**Each observation needs a SCIENCE GOAL**



Overview

# Menu':



File Edit View Tool Search Help Perspective 1

The screenshot shows the software interface with two main panels. The 'Project Structure' panel on the left displays the same tree structure as the top image, with 'redpeakers\_proj' at the top, followed by 'Proposal', 'Planned Observing', and 'ScienceGoal (Copy of Science Goal)'. The 'ScienceGoal' folder is expanded to show its sub-items: 'General', 'Field Setup', 'Spectral Setup', 'Calibration Setup', 'Control and Performance', and 'Technical Justification'. The 'Editors' panel on the right is active and shows the 'General' tab. It contains a text area for entering a name and description for the purpose of this science goal. Below this is a section for 'General (Optional)' with a 'Science Goal Name' field containing 'Copy of Science Goal' and a 'Description' field. A 'Launch Editor' button is at the bottom.

Project Structure

Proposal Program

SUBMITTED

redpeakers\_proj

Proposal

Planned Observing

ScienceGoal (Copy of Science Goal)

General

Field Setup

Spectral Setup

Calibration Setup

Control and Performance

Technical Justification

Editors

Spectral Spatial General

Enter a name and description for the purpose of this science goal. This text is optional but you may find it useful to keep a note.

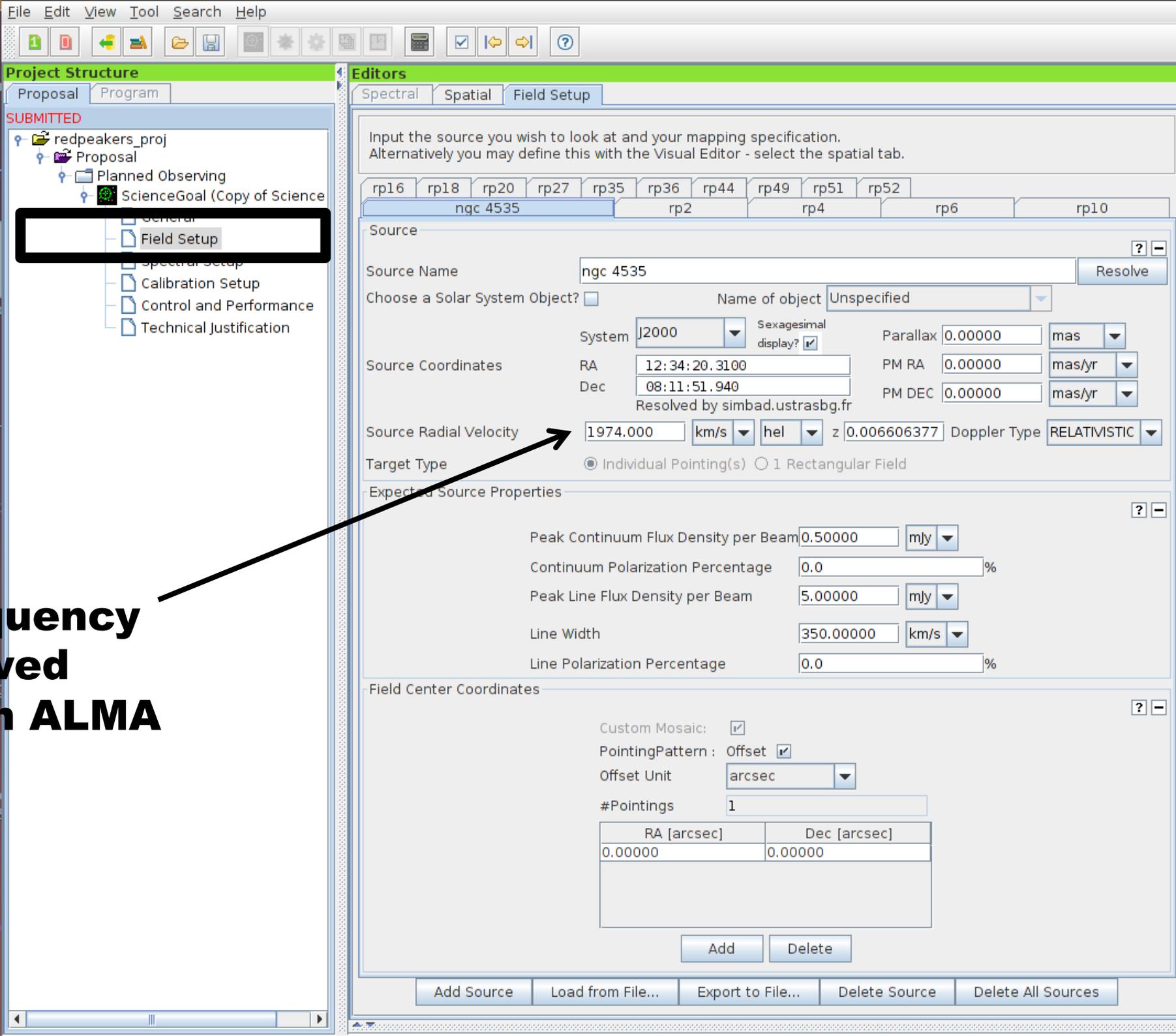
General (Optional) ? -

Science Goal Name Copy of Science Goal

Description

Launch Editor

# Menu':



**Up to 5 frequency tuning allowed all within an ALMA band**

# Menu':

File Edit View Tool Search Help

Perspective 1



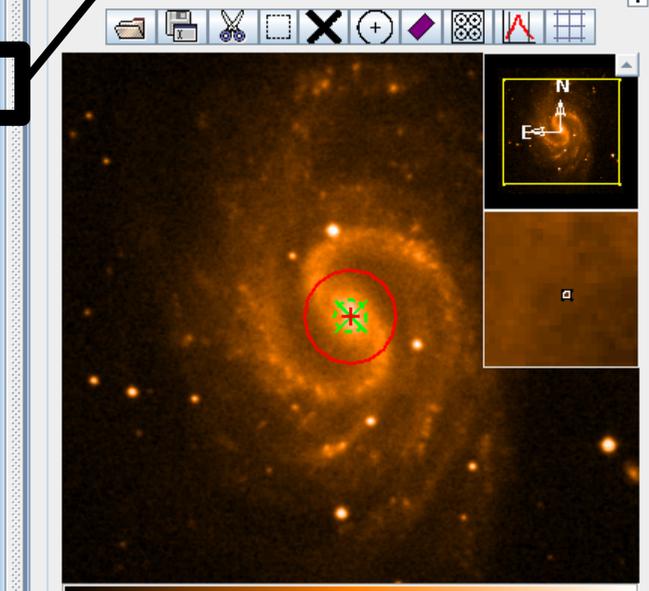
## Project Structure

- Proposed
- Program
- SUBMITTED
- redpeakers\_proj
  - Proposal
  - Planned Observing
    - ScienceGoal (Copy of Science)
- General
- Field Setup
- Calibration Setup
- Control and Performance
- Technical Justification

## Editors

- Spectral
- Spatial
- Field Setup

Spatial Image



12:34:15.761, +08:11:09.11 (J2000)  
Image Filename jsky3/cache/jsky8339116942873733197.fits

### FOV Parameters

Representative Frequency (Sky) 99.438 GHz  
Antenna Diameter 12m  
Antenna Beamsize (HPBW) 62.186 arcsec  
Show Antenna Beamsize

### Image Query

Image Server Digitized Sky (Version II) at ES...  
Image Size(arcmin) 7.0

- rp16
- rp18
- rp20
- rp27
- rp35
- rp36
- rp44
- rp49
- rp51
- rp52
- ngc 4535
- rp2
- rp4
- rp6
- rp10

### Source

Source Name ngc 4535  
Choose a Solar System Object?  Name of object Unspecified  
System J2000 Sexagesimal display?   
Source Coordinates RA 12:34:20.3100 PM RA 0.00000 mas/yr  
Dec 08:11:51.940 PM DEC 0.00000 mas/yr  
Resolved by simbad.ustrasbg.fr  
Source Radial Velocity 1974.000 km/s hel z 0.006606377 Doppler Type RELATMSTIC  
Target Type  Individual Pointing(s)  1 Rectangular Field

### Expected Source Properties

Peak Continuum Flux Density per Beam 0.50000 mJy  
Continuum Polarization Percentage 0.0 %  
Peak Line Flux Density per Beam 5.00000 mJy  
Line Width 350.00000 km/s  
Line Polarization Percentage 0.0 %

### Field Center Coordinates

Custom Mosaic:   
PointingPattern: Offset   
Offset Unit arcsec  
#Pointings 1  
Table:  

RA [arcsec]	Dec [arcsec]
0.00000	0.00000

Add Delete

Add Source Load from File... Export to File... Delete Source Delete All Sources

# Menu':

**Project Structure**

Proposal Program

SUBMITTED

- redpeakers\_proj
  - Proposal
    - Planned Observing
      - ScienceGoal (Copy of Science
        - General
        - Spectral Setup**
        - Control and Performance
        - Technical Justification

**Editors**

Spectral Spatial Spectral Setup

In the table below, it is possible to define up to 16 spectral windows, 4 per baseband as long as the total Fraction per baseband is no more than 1. Each baseband is 2GHz wide and can be separately configured i.e. each spectral window can have a different bandwidth and resolution. Note that for bands 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8, it is not possible to put 3 basebands in one sideband and the fourth one in the other.

Spectral Type ? -

Spectral Type

- Spectral Line
- Single Continuum
- Spectral Scan

Polarization products desired  XX  DUAL  FULL

Spectral Setup Errors

Spectral Scan ? -

Requested start frequency (sky)  GHz

Requested end frequency (sky)  GHz

Requested range (rect)

Achieved scan range (sky)

Bandwidth, Resolution (Hanning smoothed)

Spectral averaging

Representative frequency (sky)  GHz

The representative frequency defined in the observed frame is used in conjunction with the sensitivity entered on the 'Control and Performance' page to estimate the required observing time and to set the size of the antenna beam shown in the 'Spatial Visual' editor. The representative frequency defaults to the average mid-frequency of the achieved scan range but may be subsequently set by the user to any frequency within the achieved scan range.

Tuning (Max. 5)	SPW 1 (GHz)	SPW 2 (GHz)	SPW 3 (GHz)	SPW 4 (GHz)
1	85.0000 GHz	86.8750 GHz	97.0000 GHz	98.8750 GHz
2	88.7500 GHz	90.6250 GHz	100.7500 GHz	102.6250 GHz
3	92.5000 GHz	94.3750 GHz	104.5000 GHz	106.3750 GHz
4	96.2500 GHz	98.1250 GHz	108.2500 GHz	110.1250 GHz
5	100.0000 GHz	101.8750 GHz	112.0000 GHz	113.8750 GHz

Targets ? -

Source Name	Velocity	System	Representative Frequency (Sky)
ngc 4535	1974.0 km/s	hel	99.4380 GHz
rp2	0.0 km/s	lsrk	99.4380 GHz
rp4	0.0 km/s	lsrk	99.4380 GHz
rp6	0.0 km/s	lsrk	99.4380 GHz

# Menu':

## Project Structure

Proposal Program

SUBMITTED

- redpeakers\_proj
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    - Planned Observing
      - ScienceGoal (Copy of Science
        - General
        - Field Setup
        - Spectral Setup**
        - Combination Setup
        - Control and Performance
        - Technical Justification

## Editors

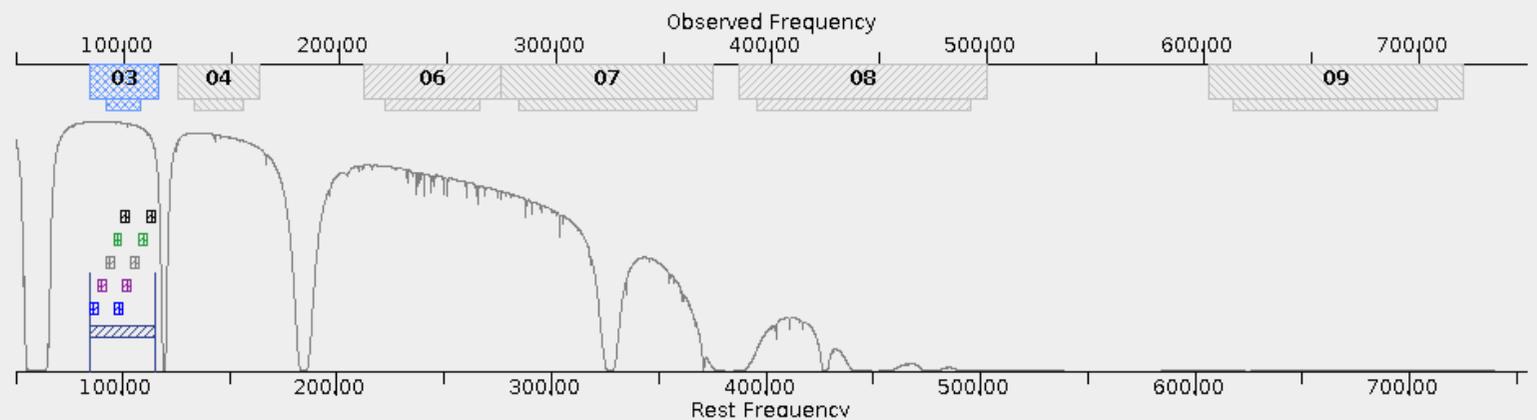
Spectral Spatial Spectral Setup

Visualisation

In the table below, it is possible to define up to 16 spectral windows, 4 per baseband as long as the total Fraction per baseband is no more than 1. Each baseband is 2GHz wide and can be separately configured i.e. each spectral window can have a different bandwidth and resolution. Note that for bands 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8, it is not possible to put 3 basebands in one sideband and the fourth one in the other.

Left/right click to zoom in/out, grab sliding bar to pan

Note: Moving LO1 here is for experimentation only - actual setup determined by the windows



Overlays:  Receiver Bands  Transmission  Overlay Lines  DSB Image Select Lines to Overlay

Spectral Scan:  Requested Scan  Tuning 1  Tuning 2  Tuning 3  Tuning 4  Tuning 5

Water Vapour Column Density:  Automatic Choice  Manual Choice 5.186mm (7th Octile)

Viewport: Pan to Line Zoom to Band Reset

Spectral Type

- Spectral Type  Spectral Line  Single Continuum  Spectral Scan
- Polarization products desired  XX  DUAL  FULL

# Menu':

**Project Structure**

Proposal Program

SUBMITTED

- redpeakers\_proj
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    - Planned Observing
      - ScienceGoal (Copy of Science
        - General
        - Area Setup
        - Spectral Setup**
        - Control and Performance
        - Technical Justification

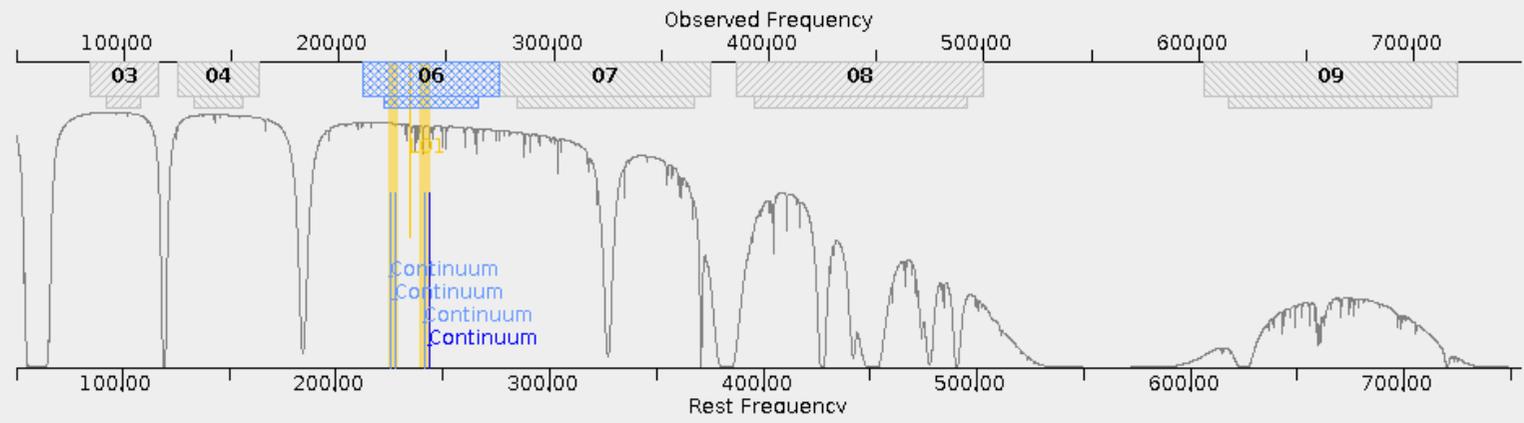
**Editors**

Spectral Spatial Spectral Setup

Visualisation

In the table below, it is possible to define up to 16 spectral windows, 4 per baseband as long as the total Fraction per baseband is no more than 1. Each baseband is 2GHz wide and can be separately configured i.e. each spectral window can have a different bandwidth and resolution. Note that for bands 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8, it is not possible to put 3 basebands in one sideband and the fourth one in the other.

Left/right click to zoom in/out, grab sliding bar to pan  
Note: Moving L01 here is for experimentation only - actual setup determined by the windows



Overlays:  Receiver Bands  Transmission  Overlay Lines  DSB Image Select Lines to Overlay

Water Vapour Column Density:  Automatic Choice  Manual Choice 1.262mm (4th Octile)

Viewport: Pan to Line Zoom to Band Reset

Spectral Type

Spectral Type  Single Continuum  Spectral Scan

Polarization products desired  XX  DUAL  FULL

# Menu':

**Project Structure**

Proposal Program

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- redpeakers\_proj
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    - Planned Observing
      - ScienceGoal (Copy of Science
        - General
        - Spectral Setup
        - Control and Performance
        - Technical Justification

**Editors**

Spectral Spatial Spectral Setup

Visualisation

In the table below, it is possible to define up to 16 spectral windows, 4 per baseband as long as the total Fraction per baseband is no more than 1. Each baseband is 2GHz wide and can be separately configured i.e. each spectral window can have a different bandwidth and resolution. Note that for bands 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8, it is not possible to put 3 basebands in one sideband and the fourth one in the other.

Left/right click to zoom in/out, grab sliding bar to pan  
Note: Moving L01 here is for experimentation only - actual setup determined by the windows

Observed Frequency

Rest Frequency

03 04 06 07 08 09

Overlays:  Receiver Bands  Transmission  Overlay Lines  DSB Image

Water Vapour Column Density:  Automatic Choice  Manual Choice 5.186mm (7th Octile)

Viewport:

Spectral Type

Spectral Line  Single Continuum  Spectral Scan

Polarization products desired  XX  DUAL  FULL



# Menu':

**Project Structure**

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        - General
        - Field Setup
        - Spectral Setup
        - Calibration Setup
        - Technical Justification

**Editors**

Spectral Spatial Calibration Setup

Select calibration setup.  
If "system" is selected, the ALMA system will select default calibrators.

Goal Calibrators

Select *User-defined calibration* to choose your own calibrators, or *System-defined calibration* to let the system automatically select the calibrators to be observed. We **STRONGLY** suggest that you leave this choice at 'System-defined' - the Observatory will ensure that suitable calibrators are selected.

System-defined calibration

User-defined calibration

# Menu':

## Project Structure

Project Structure (SUBMITTED)

- redpeakers\_proj
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    - Planned Observing
      - ScienceGoal (Copy of Science
        - General
        - Field Setup
        - Spectral Setup
        - Control and Performance**
        - Technical Justification

## Editors

Editors (Spectral | Spatial | Control and Performance)

These parameters are used to control various aspects of the observations, including the required antenna configurations and integration times.

### Control and Performance

Configuration Information

Antenna Beamsize ( $1.2 * \lambda / D$ )	12m	27.606 arcsec	7m	47.324 arcsec		
Number of Antennas	12m	34	7m	9	TP	2
Longest baseline ( $L_{max}$ )	Most extended 12m configuration		Most compact 12m configuration			
	1.508 km		0.166 km			
Synthesized beamsize ( $\lambda L_{max}$ )	0.183 arcsec		1.667 arcsec			
Shortest baseline ( $L_{min}$ )	0.041 km		0.014 km			
Maximum recoverable scale ( $0.6\lambda L_{min}$ )	4.079 arcsec		11.673 arcsec			

### Desired Performance

Desired Angular Resolution: 3.75400 arcsec

Largest Angular Structure in source:  Point Source  Extended Source

Desired sensitivity per pointing: 1.00000 mJy equivalent to 0.00173 K

Bandwidth used for Sensitivity: AggregateBandWidth Frequency Width 7.500000 GHz

Do you request complementary ACA Observations?  Yes  No

Science goal integration time estimate

Is more time required due to u,v coverage issues? (must be justified)  Yes  No

Are the observations time-constrained?  Yes  No

# Menu':

## Project Structure

Proposal Program

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        - General
        - Field Setup
        - Spectral Setup
        - Calibration Setup
        - Control and Performance
        - Technical Justification

## Editors

Spectral Spatial Technical Justification

Enter a Technical Justification for this Science Goal, paying special attention to the parameters reproduced below.

Relevant science parameters

Sensitivity	1.00 mJy	Angular Resolution	3.75 arcsec
Bandwidth for sensitivity	7.50 GHz	Largest angular structure	Point Source
Representative frequency	224.00 GHz	ACA	No

Expected source properties

**Continuum:**

Aggregate bandwidth	7.50 GHz	Sensitivity	0.32 mJy
Peak flux density	0.50 mJy	SNR	1.57

**Line:**

Peak flux density	5.00 mJy	SNR	-
Line width	350.00 km/s	Resolutions per FWHM	8

Non-standard choices

**Field setup:**

**Spectral Setup:**

**Calibration:**

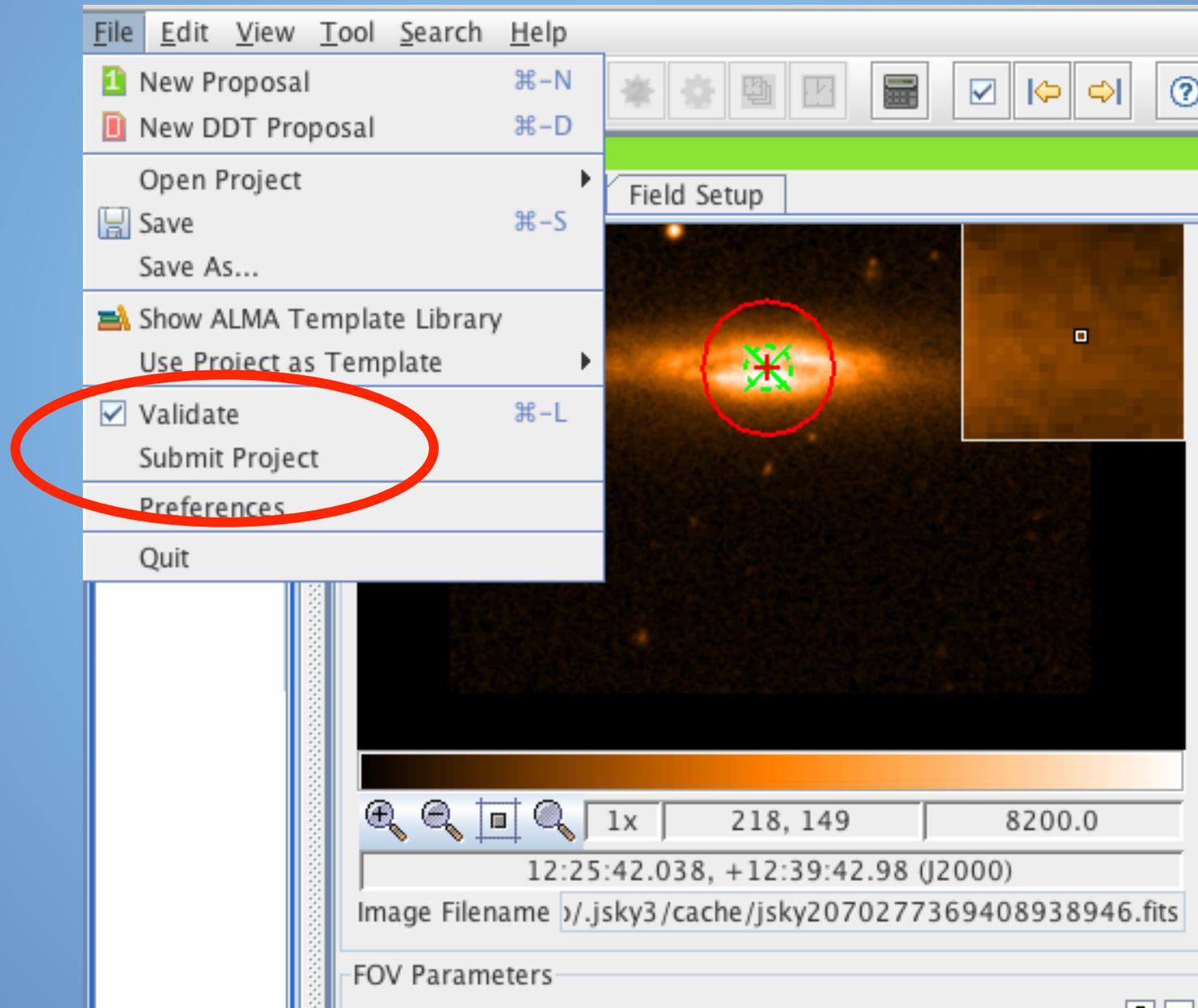
**Control and Performance:**

Justification text (max 4000 characters)

The project consists in a blind search for extraterrestrial life.

Launch Editor

# Submit?



# FOR ANY QUESTION DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT THE PACE THROUGH THE WEBSITE:

pace.oal.ul.pt



## EUROPEAN ARC

ALMA Centre of Expertise || Portuguese

PACE

Portuguese ALMA Centre of Expertise

**PACE NEWS**

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- Positions in the EU-ARC network
- Portuguese ALMA National Community Day
- ALMA Cycle 3 Pre-announcement
- ALMA Community Days: Cycle 3 Proposal Preparation

**PACE MAILING LIST**

Do you wish to receive ALMA-related news or notices of events organised by the EU ARC or PACE?

Name

E-Mail

**SUBMIT**

## PACE

Since [May 2014](#), the Centre of Astronomy and Astrophysics of the University of Lisbon ([CAAUL](#)) is officially part of the European Atacama Large Millimetre Array ([ALMA](#)) [support structure](#) as a Centre of Expertise (CoE). This status was granted by ESO after the recognition of CAAUL team's capability to support the community with the use of ALMA, in addition to the already existent [EU ALMA Regional Centre \(ARC\) nodes](#).

The Portuguese ALMA CoE (PACE) is now composed by a [team](#) of researchers, technical, administrative, and outreach personnel. CAAUL members are currently involved in seven approved ALMA proposals. The [tasks](#) of the PACE are partly the same as those of an EU ARC node, including, for instance, proposal preparation support.

**For the rest:**

# ENJOY!

