

MEMORANDUM

To: ALFA Consortium Members

From: R. L. Brown

Subject: Proposals for Shared-Risk ALFA-related Precursor Observations: Guidelines

Date: January 29, 2004

Several individuals and groups involved with the ALFA consortia and/or with planning for ALFA observations have asked for clarification regarding the opportunity to submit proposals for shared-risk ALFA precursor observations at the February 1, 2004 NAIC proposal deadline. The following are the guidelines for such proposals:

1. Proposals will be accepted for shared-risk commissioning observations with ALFA in the observing period June to October 2004.
2. Here the word 'commissioning' may be defined as testing hardware capabilities, observing techniques, software methodologies (e.g. baseline removal, RFI excision), or ALFA survey organizational plans.
3. The deadline for receipt of these proposals has been extended from the usual February 1 date to February 16, 2004 owing to the late distribution of these guidelines.
4. Each such proposal must include a specific description of the testing plan proposed together with the sources/region of the sky to be observed and the science objectives.
5. Each proposal will be reviewed in the normal way as for all Arecibo proposals but the referees will be instructed to recognize that the objective of these proposals is both science and tests.
6. Each proposal will also be reviewed by the ALFA project scientist for suitability to the instrument.
7. NAIC provides no guarantee whatsoever that any of the proposals for ALFA commissioning observations, however highly rated, will be scheduled prior to October 1, 2004. The judgment as to whether and when ALFA is ready for shared-risk commissioning observations will be made by the ALFA project manager.
8. ALFA commissioning proposals submitted at the February 16, 2004 proposal deadline will be considered for scheduling only until October 1, 2004. New or revised proposals will be required thereafter (because specific data will be available on ALFA by that time which is, of course, not available now).