# An Introduction to ALMA and the ALMA Proposal Process

Where to get all the relevant information but were afraid to ask...



**Anthony Remijan** 

ALMA Program Scientist – (Extension and Optimization of Capabilities)





Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array
Expanded Very Large Array
Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope
Very Long Baseline Array

# **ALMA**

## Going to assume the following...

- You are new to ALMA and have not yet had experience with the relevant documentation...
- Have not downloaded the ALMA Observing Tool (OT) or even know where to get it.
- Have an absolute killer science case that will be essential to followup with ALMA facilities...
- Several examples are available for science cases with ALMA since Cycle 0...
- Many of the capabilities presented here were for Cycle 2. Cycle 3 capabilities are still undergoing commissioning – defined by end of October.

This presentation will (hopefully) just highlight sections of the proposal submission processes for ALMA which you can then practice during the "hands on" section...



### **ALMA Overview**

- A global partnership to deliver a revolutionary millimeter/submillimeter telescope array
  - North America (US, Canada, Taiwan)
  - Europe (ESO)
  - East Asia (Japan, Taiwan)
  - In collaboration with Chile
- 5000 m (16,500 ft) site in Chilean Atacama desert
- 66 telescopes when complete
  - Main Array: 50 x 12m antennas
  - Total Power Array: 4 x 12m antennas
  - Atacama Compact Array (ACA): 12 x 7m antennas







### **ALMA** in a Nutshell...

- Angular resolution down to 0.015" (at 300 GHz)
- Sensitive, precision imaging 84 to 950 GHz (3 mm to 315 μm)
- State-of-the-art low-noise, wide-band receivers (8 GHz bandwidth)
- Flexible correlator with high spectral resolution at wide bandwidth
- Full polarization capabilities
- Estimated 1 TB/day data rate





### ALMA in a Nutshell...

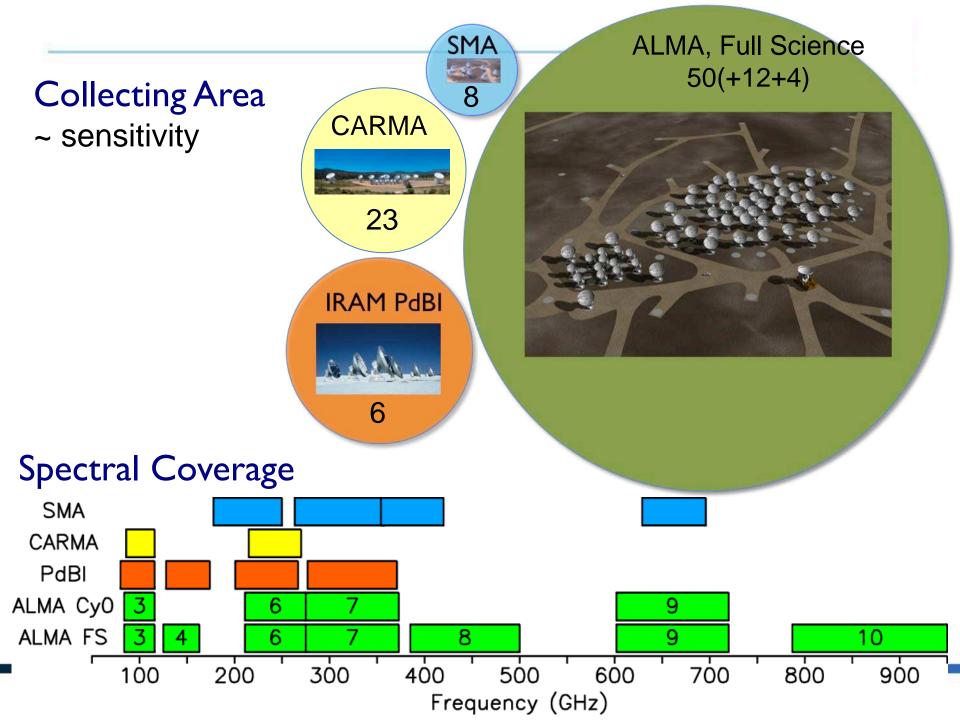
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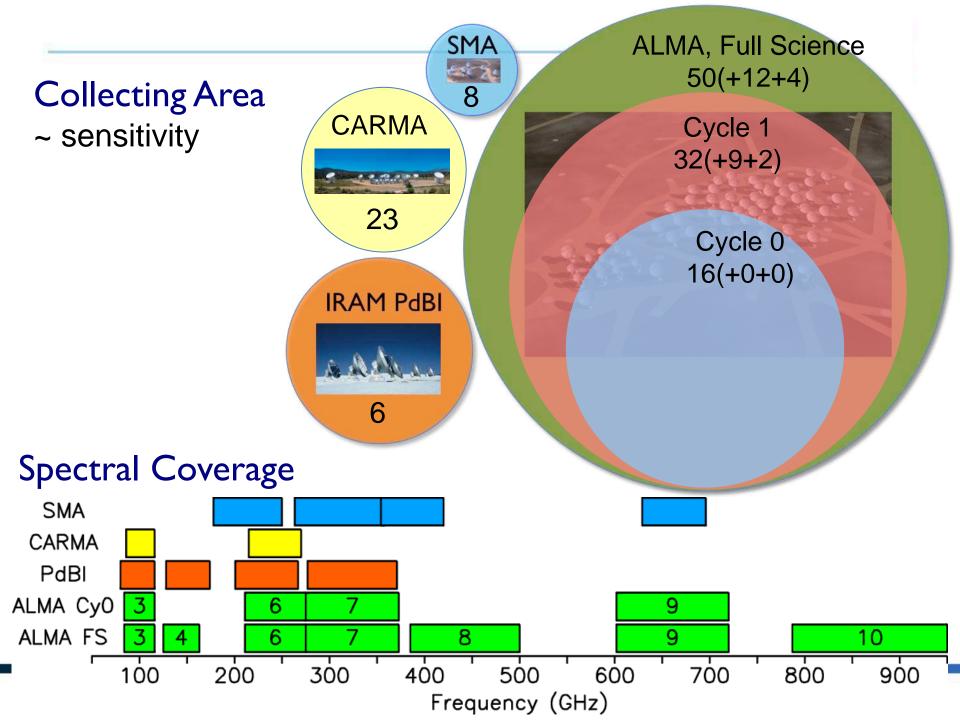
ALMA will be 10-100 times more sensitive and have 10-100 times better angular resolution compared to current millimeter interferometers

- All science data archived
- Pipeline processing

ALMA is a telescope for

all astronomers







- 34 12m, 9 ACA, 2 TP antennas
- Bands 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 available
- ◆ Baselines out to 1.5 km (0.15" resolution at 300 GHz) for Bands 3 – 7 (1.0 km for Bands 8 and 9)

Band	Frequency range1	Wavelength range	
	(GHz)	(mm)	
3	84 – 116	3.6 – 2.6	
4	125 – 163	2.4 – 1.8	
6	211 – 275	1.4 – 1.1	
7	275 – 373	1.1 – 0.8	
8	385 – 500	0.78 - 0.60	
9	602 – 720	0.50 - 0.42	





- 12m array 7 configurations with maximum baselines ranging from 160 m to 1.5 km
- Angular resolutions for most compact and most expected configurations and maximum recoverable scale without the ACA:

	Frequency	Maximum Recoverable Scale without ACA <sup>2,3,4</sup>	Coarsest allowed angular resolution <sup>2,3,5</sup>	Finest achievable angular resolution <sup>2,3,6</sup>	
	(GHz)	(arcsec)	(arcsec)	(arcsec)	
	100	25	7.5	0.41	
	150	17	5.0	0.27	
	230	11	3.3	0.18	
	345	7.2	2.2	0.12	
	460	5.4	1.6	0.12	
R/	650	3.8	1.2	0.09	



Maximum recoverable scale including 7m array:

Frequency (GHz)	Maximum Recoverable Scale <sup>1,2,3</sup> (arcsec)
100	42
150	28
230	18
345	12
460	9.1
650	6.4

\*ACA not offered as stand-alone array

\*TP only for spectral line observations in Bands 3

- 8





### **Spectral Capabilities:**

- Up to four basebands can be placed within the two receiver sidebands
- Different correlator modes can be specified for each baseband
- Up to four spectral windows per baseband are allowed
- Can smooth data to reduce the data rate (max = 60 MB/s)

	Bandwidth(3)	Channel spacing(4)	Spectral resolution	Number of channels	Correlator mode	
	(MHz)	(MHz)	(MHz)			
	20003	15.6	31.2	1283	TDM	
	1875	0.488	0.976	3840	FDM	
	938	0.244	0.488	3840	FDM	
	469	0.122	0.244	3840	FDM	
	234	0.061	0.122	3840	FDM	
	117	0.0305	0.061	3840	FDM	
Ş	58.6	0.0153	0.0305	3840	FDM	12



### Mapping modes:

- Mosaic one rectangular field consisting of up to 150 pointings per Science Goal
- Individual pointings a mixture of sources and offsets that
  - are not separated by more than 10 degrees on the sky
  - can be observed with one spectral setup
  - can be observed with no more than five separate frequency settings that all fall within the same receiver band
- \*The sum over all sources, offsets, and frequency settings must be less than or equal to 150 per Science Goal





### Other:

- Full polarization continuum measurements for 12-m Array observations in Bands 3, 6 and 7 (offered only for specific frequency settings)
- "Spectral Scan" option for spectral surveys or redshift searches
- Target of Opportunity observations (e.g. monitoring and timeconstrained projects) in one I2m Array configuration with restrictions

Go to the ALMA Science Portal for links to Proposer's Guide and ALMA Cycle 2 Capabilities: <a href="https://almascience.nrao.edu/">https://almascience.nrao.edu/</a>





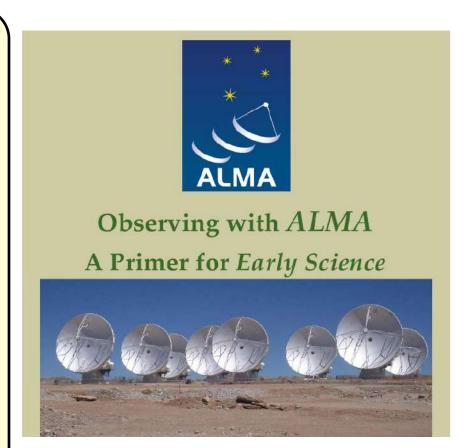
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### **Cycle 3 Documentation & Timeline**

- CfP Guide
- ALMA Primer
- OT Guide
- ALMA Tech Handbook
- Timeline for Cycle 3
  - Spring 2015 CfP
  - Summer 2015 –
     Proposal Deadline
  - Fall 2015 Start of Cycle 3 Observing







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In search of our Cosmic Origins





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Newsletter No. 9

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### **Downloading the ALMA OT**



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#### User Services at ARCs

- Helpdesk
- EU ARC

You are here: Home > Proposing > Observing Tool

#### 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. It is also used for preparing and submitting Director's Discretionary Time (DDT) proposals. The current Cycle 1 release of the OT is configured for the Early Science Capabilities of ALMA as described in the Cycle 1 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 installed (see the <u>troubleshooting page</u> 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 "Iced Tea" flavour common on 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 of 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:

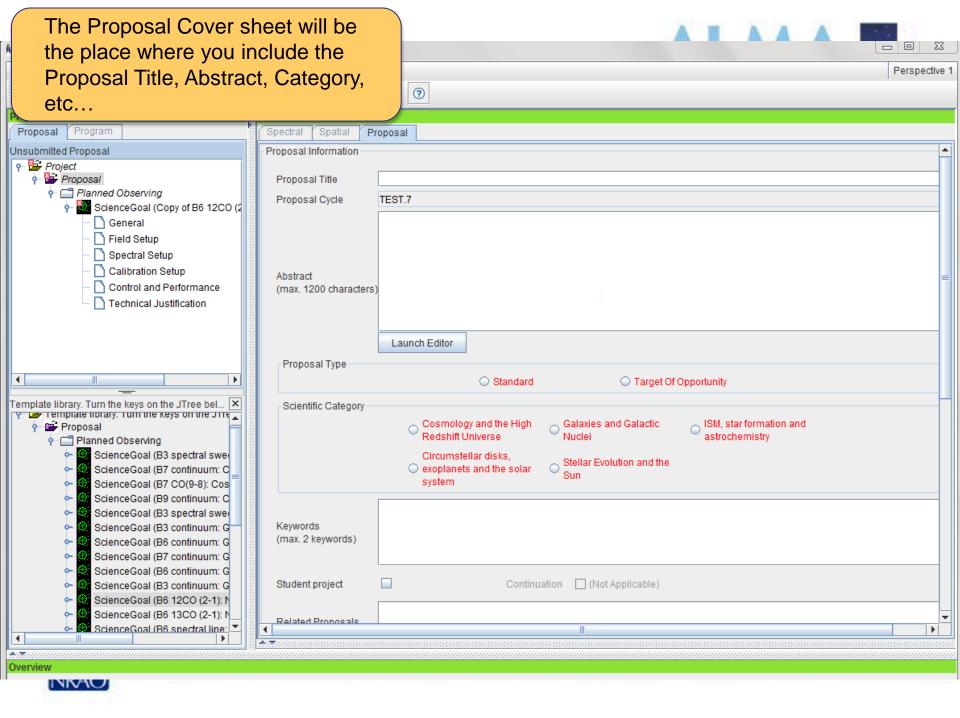
- . If you are a novice OT user you should start with the OT Quickstart Guide, which akes you through the basic steps of ALMA proposal preparation.
- Audio-visual illustrations of different aspects of the OT can be found in the OT video tutorials. These are recommended for novices and advanced users alike.
- More in-depth information on the OT can be found in the User Manual, while condise explanations of all fields and menu items in the OT are given in
  the Reference Manual. These two documents are also available within the OT under the Help menu.

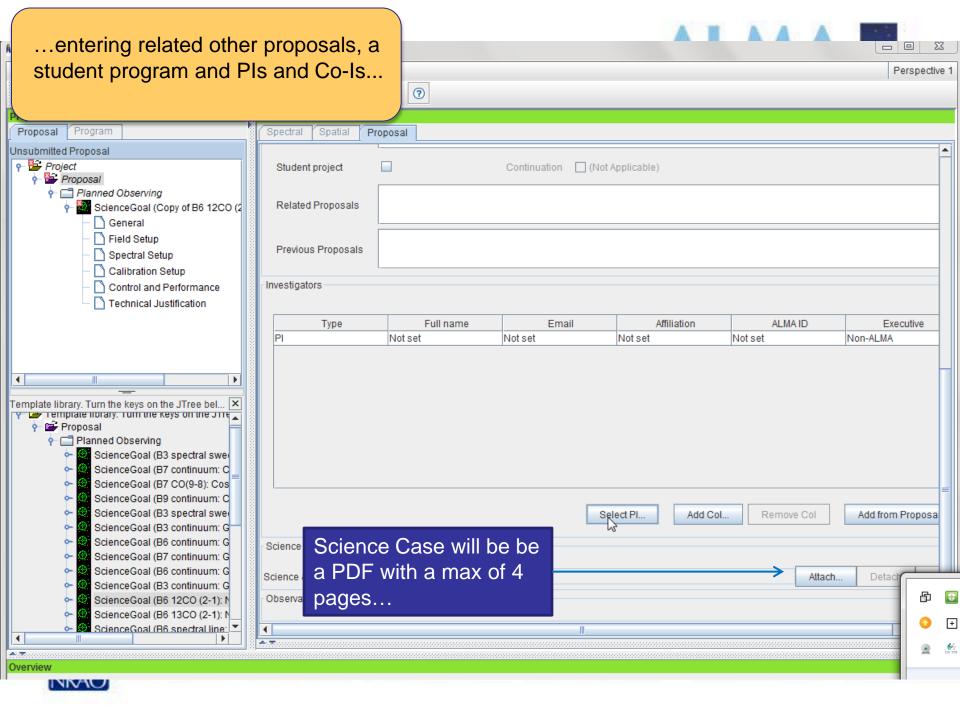




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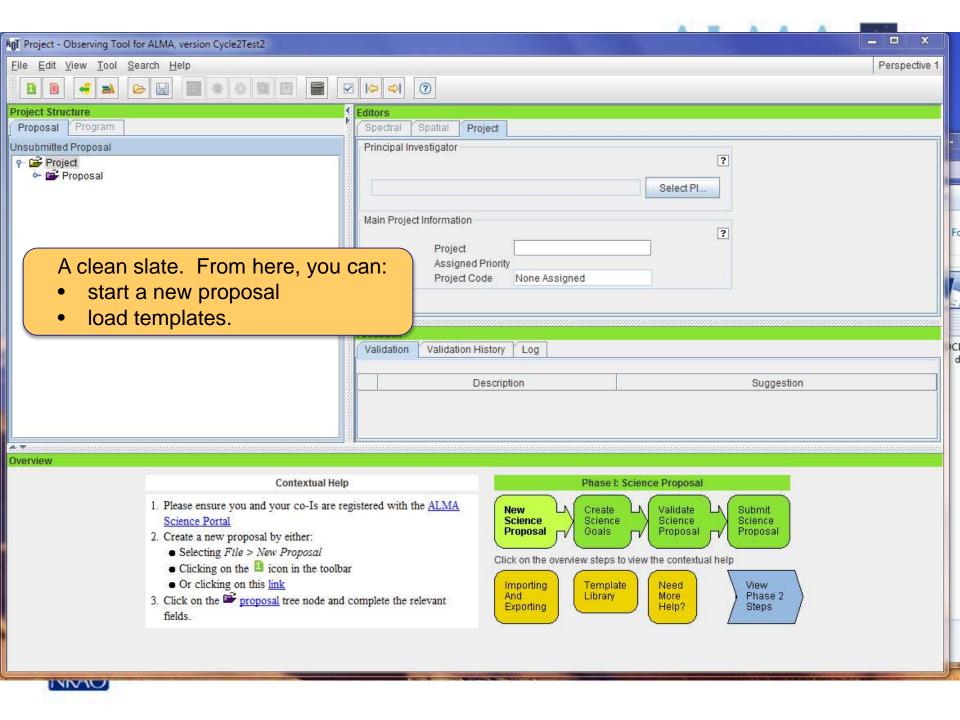


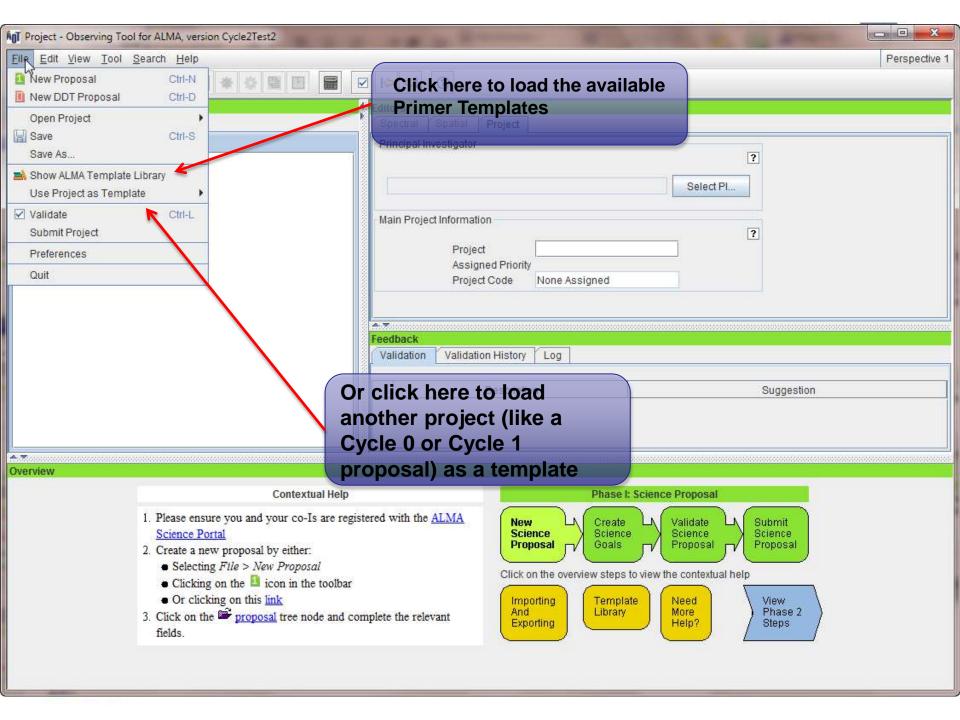


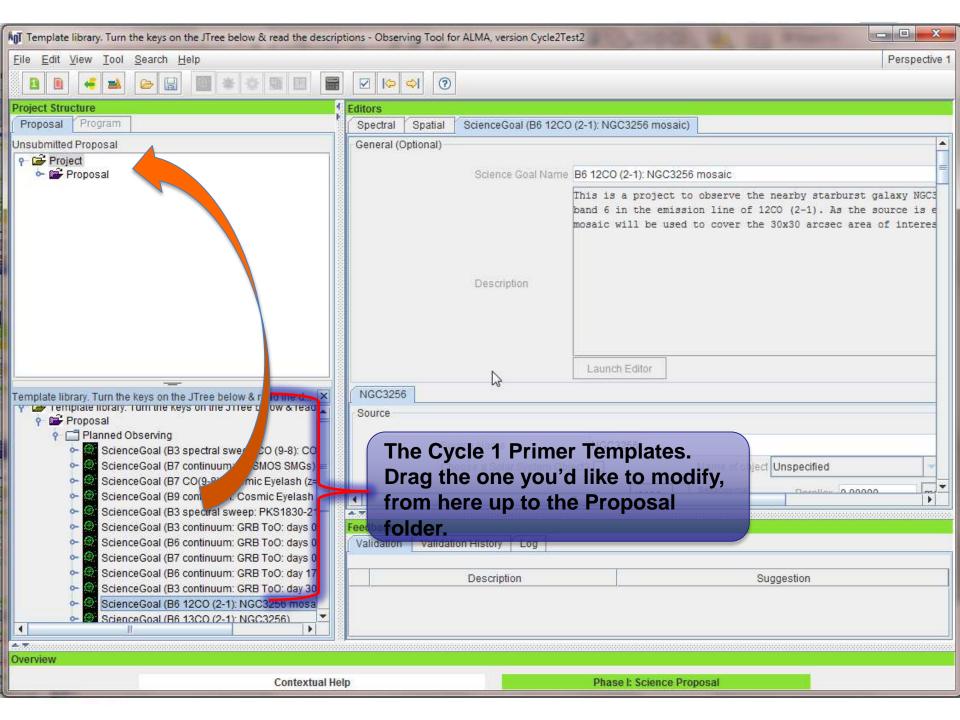


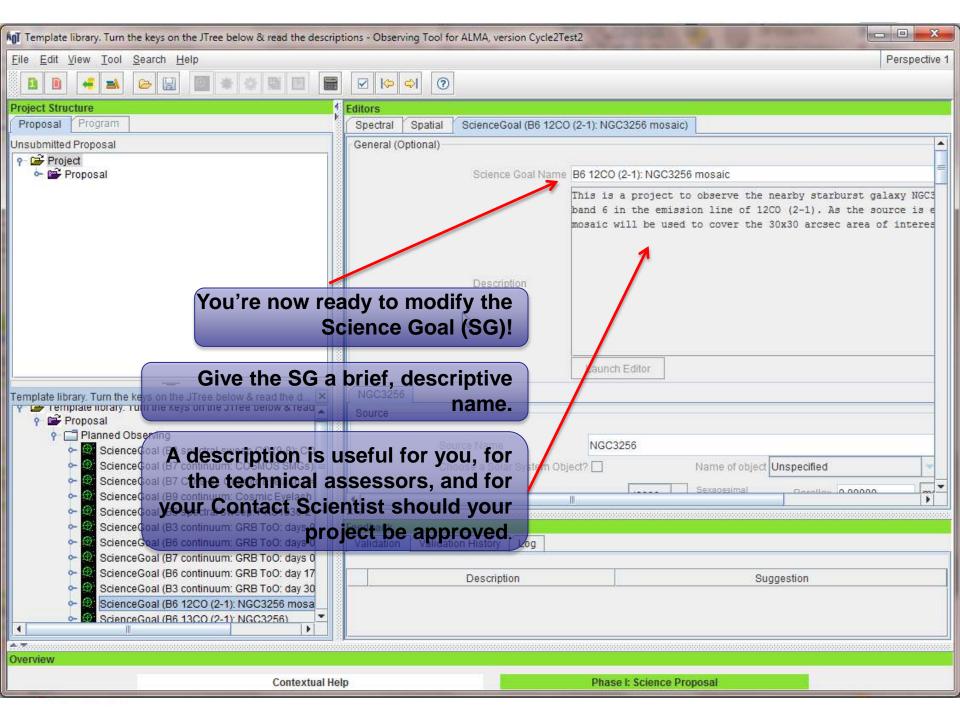
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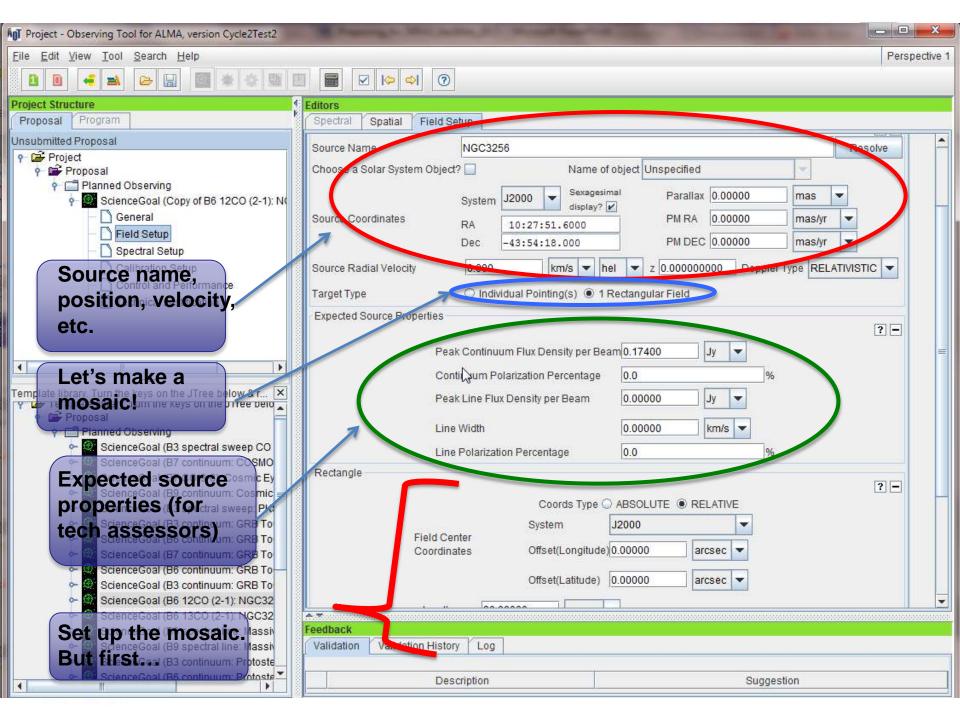


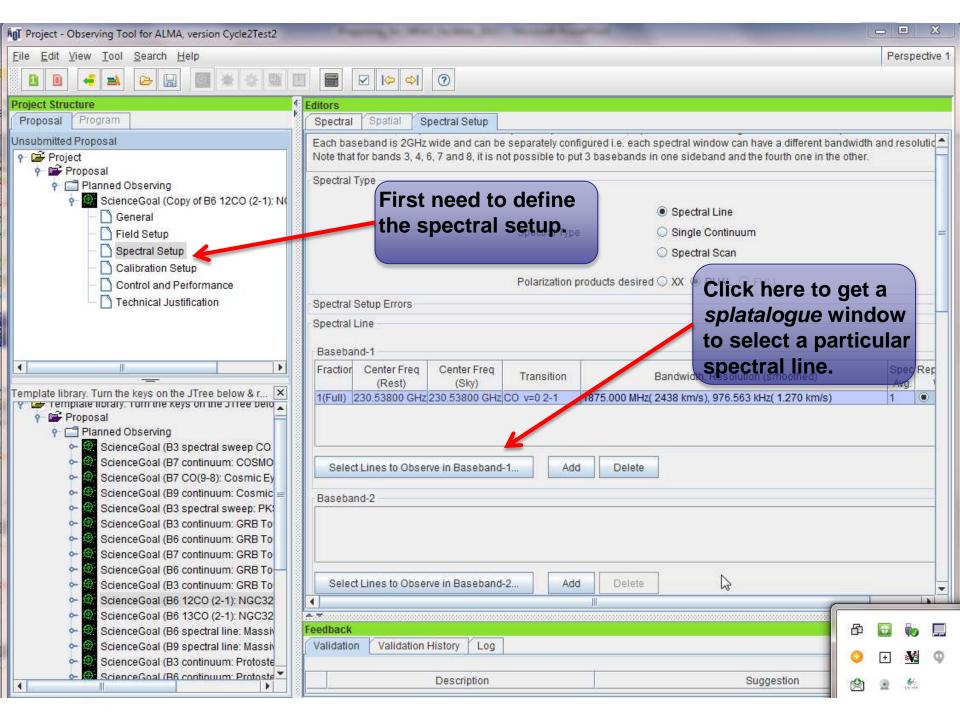


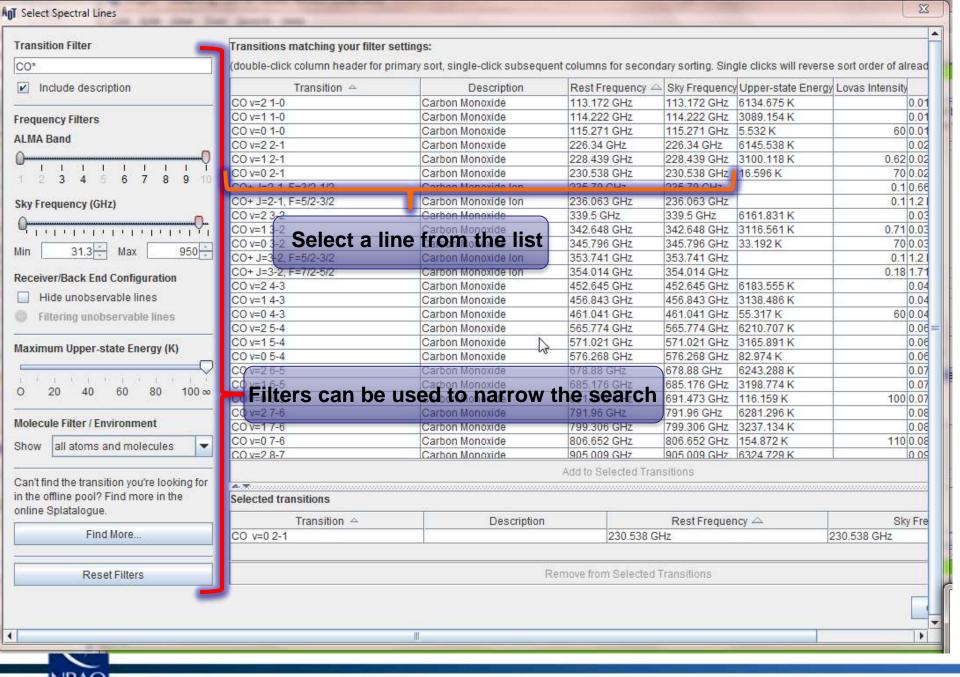


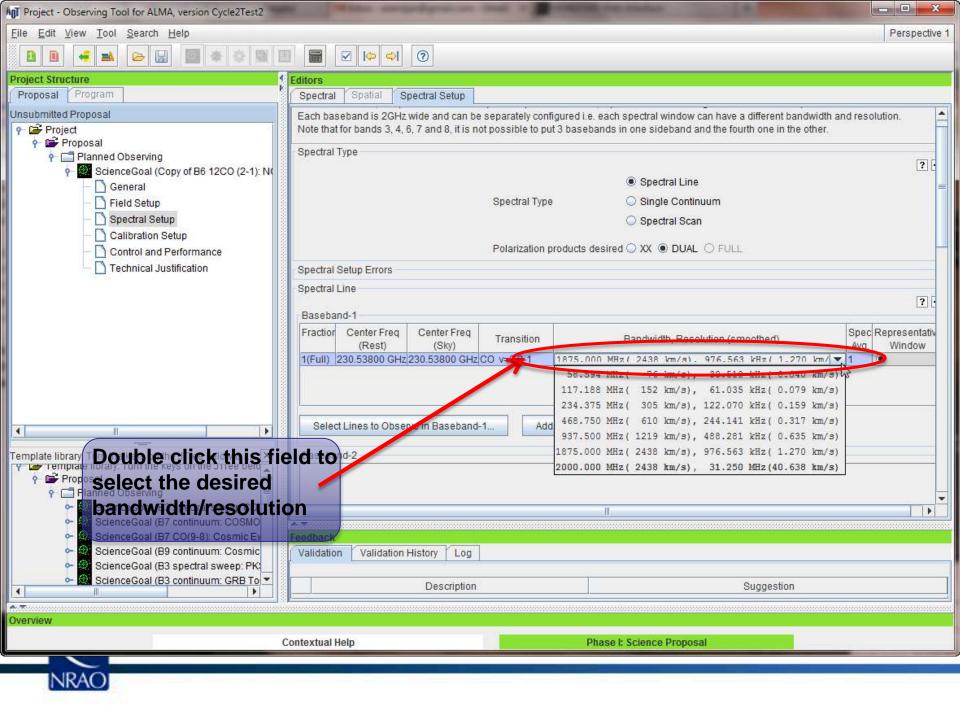


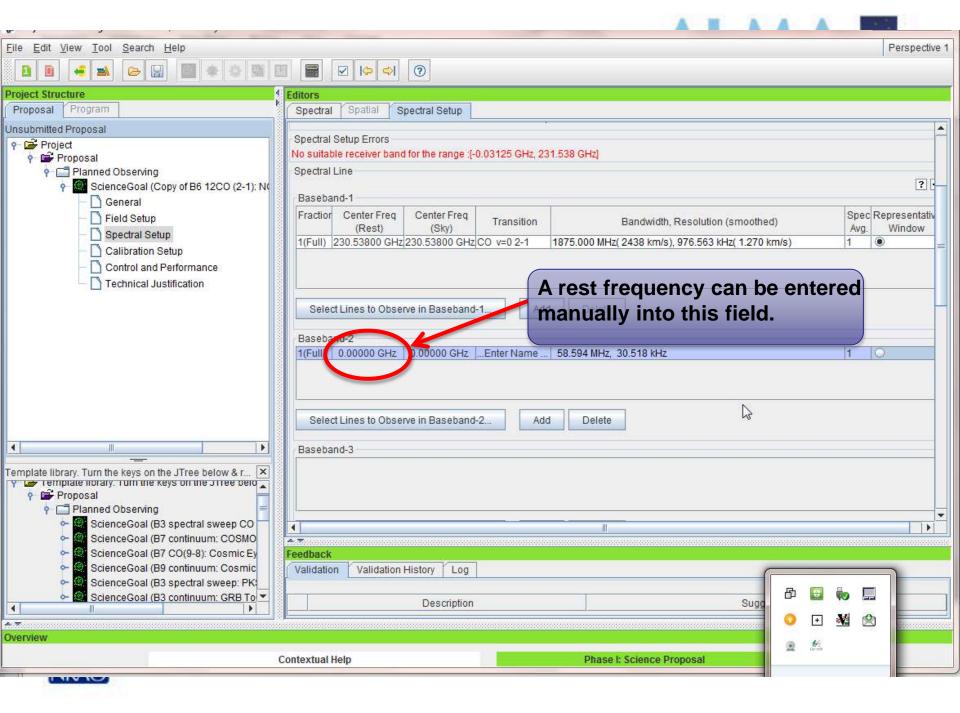


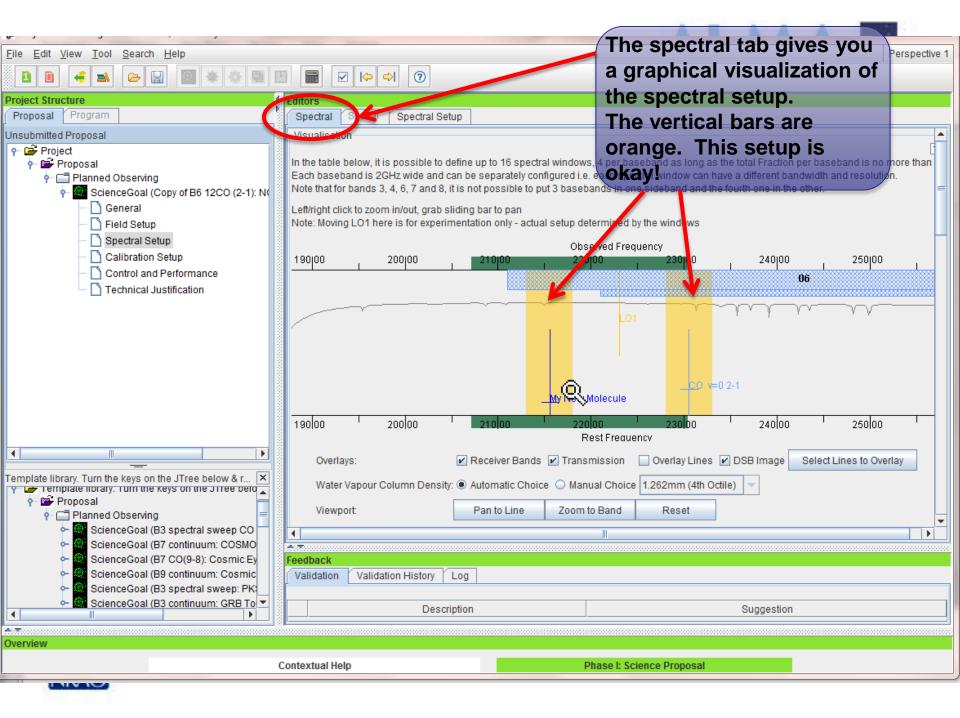




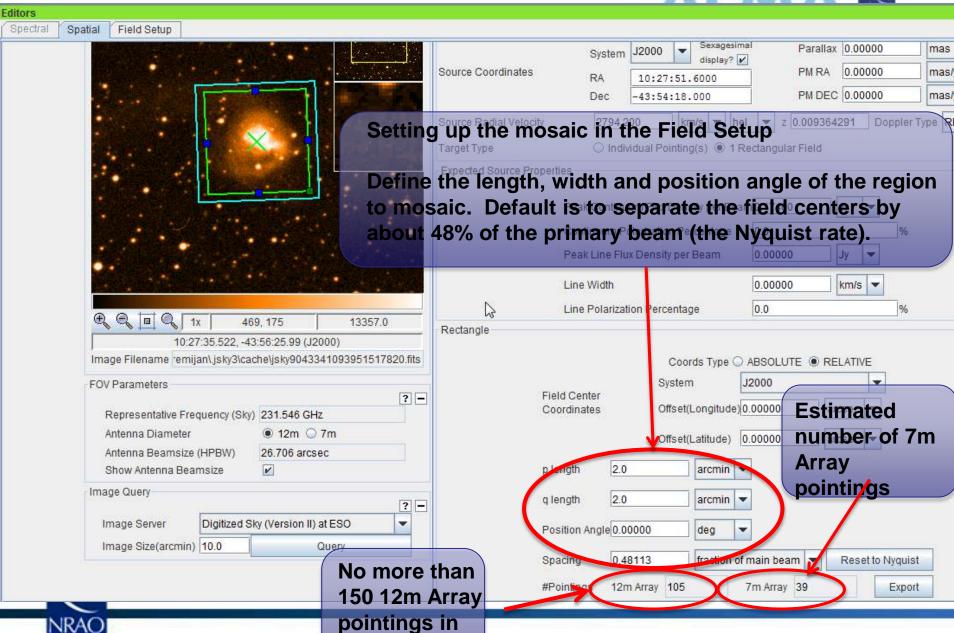




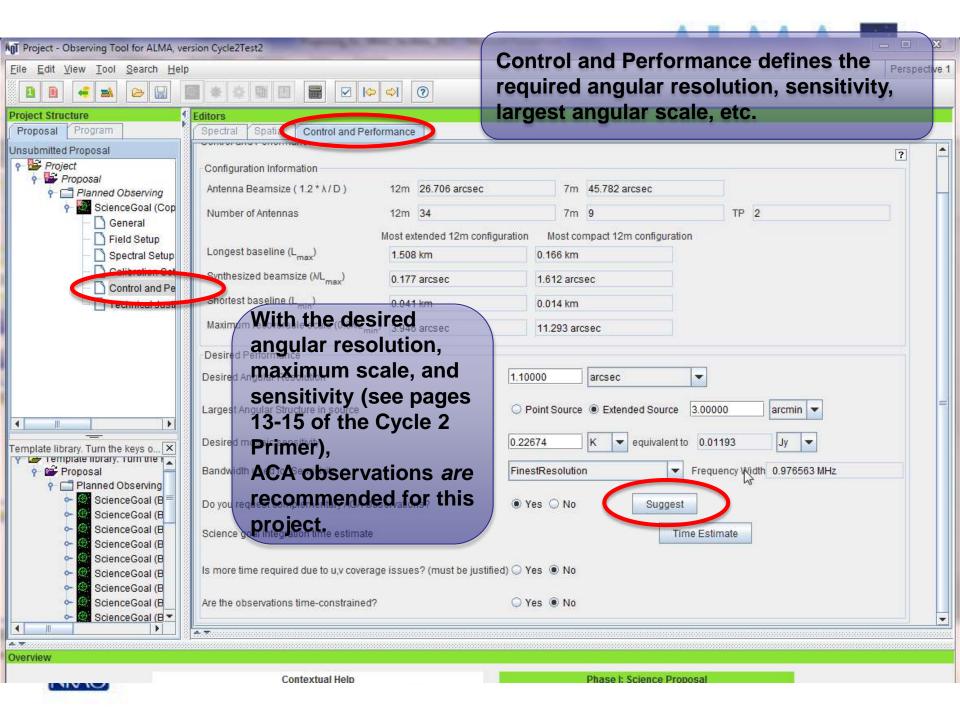


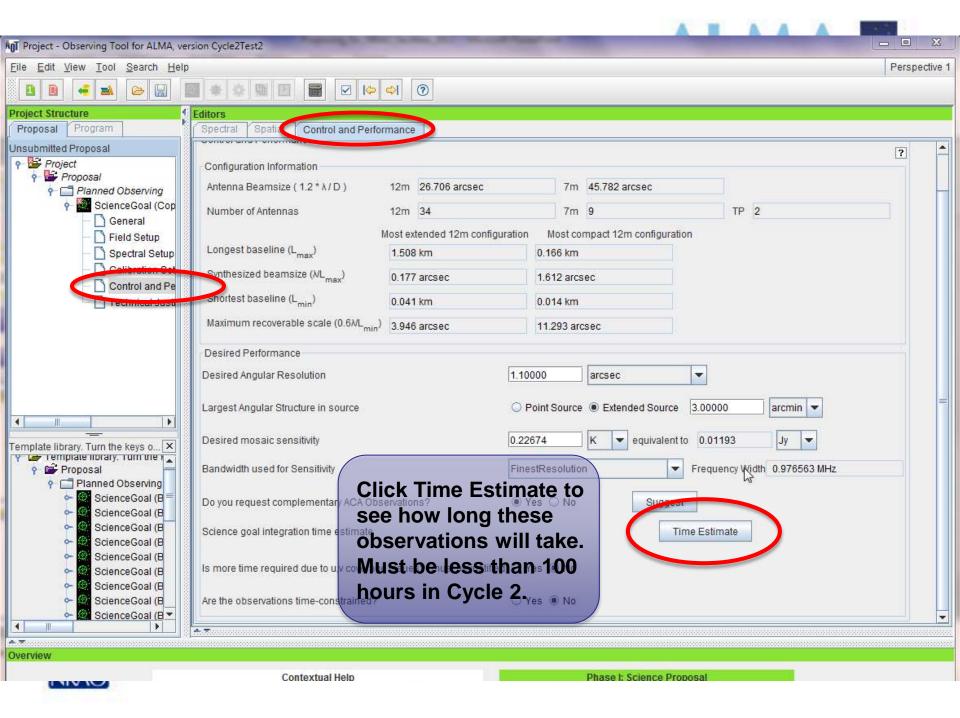


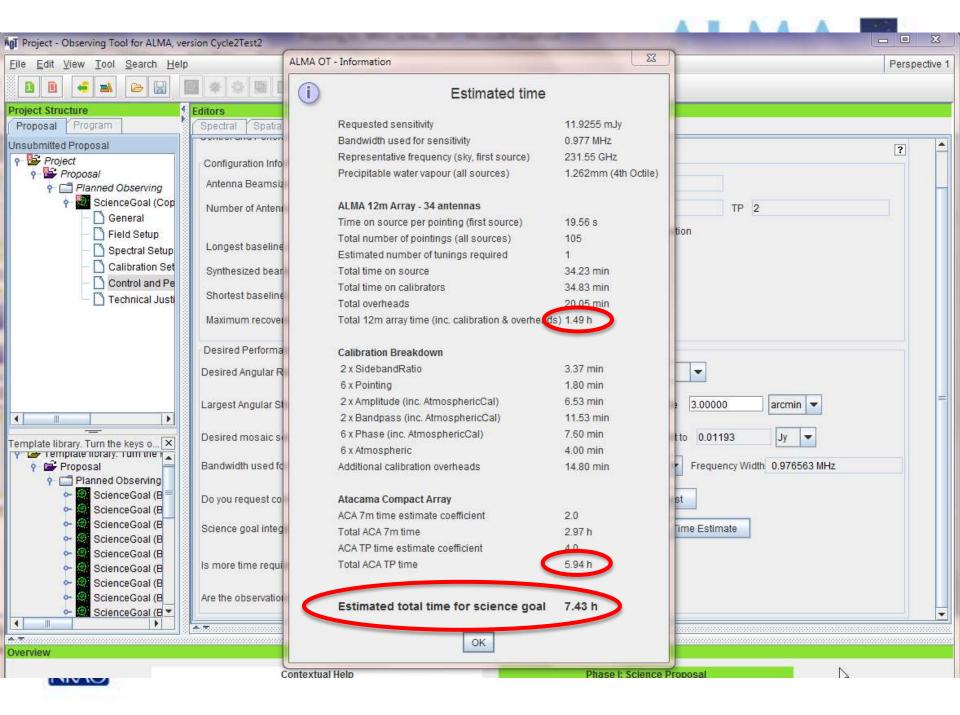


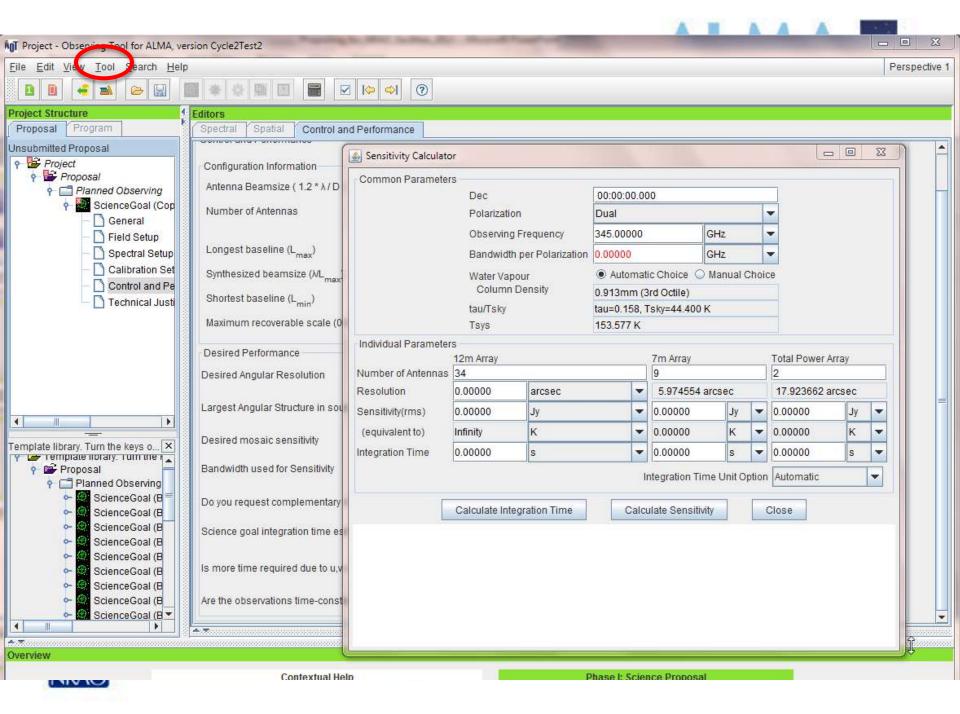


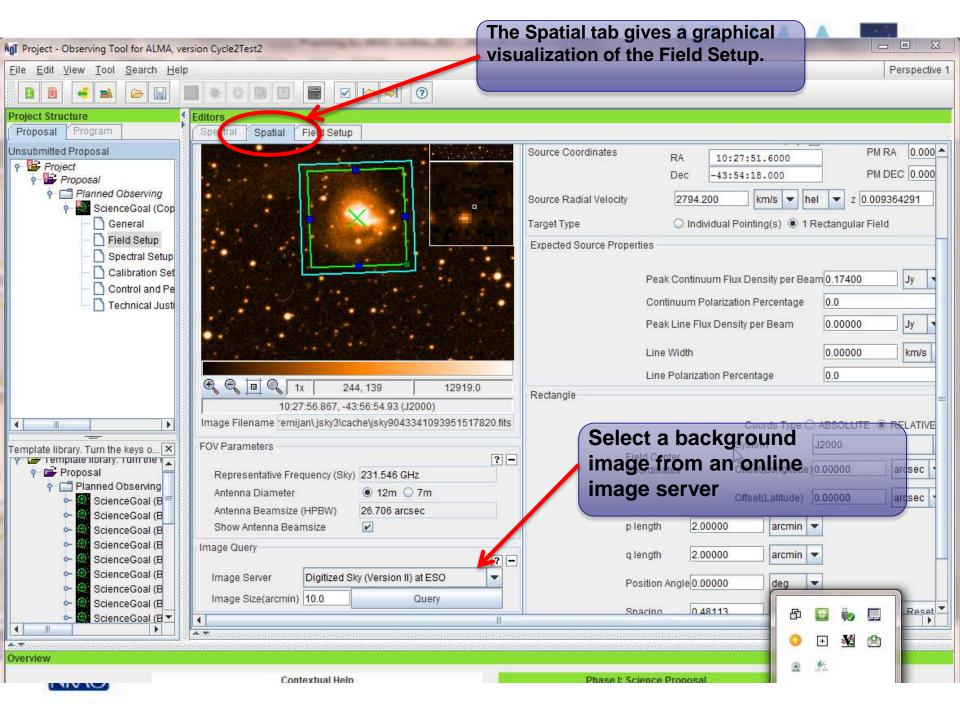
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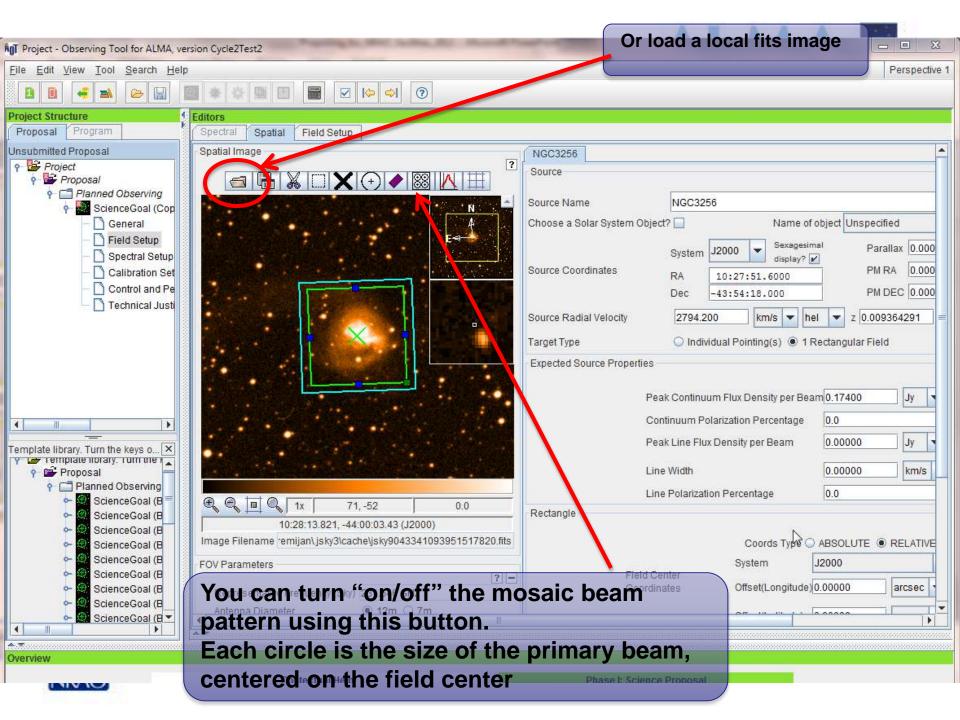


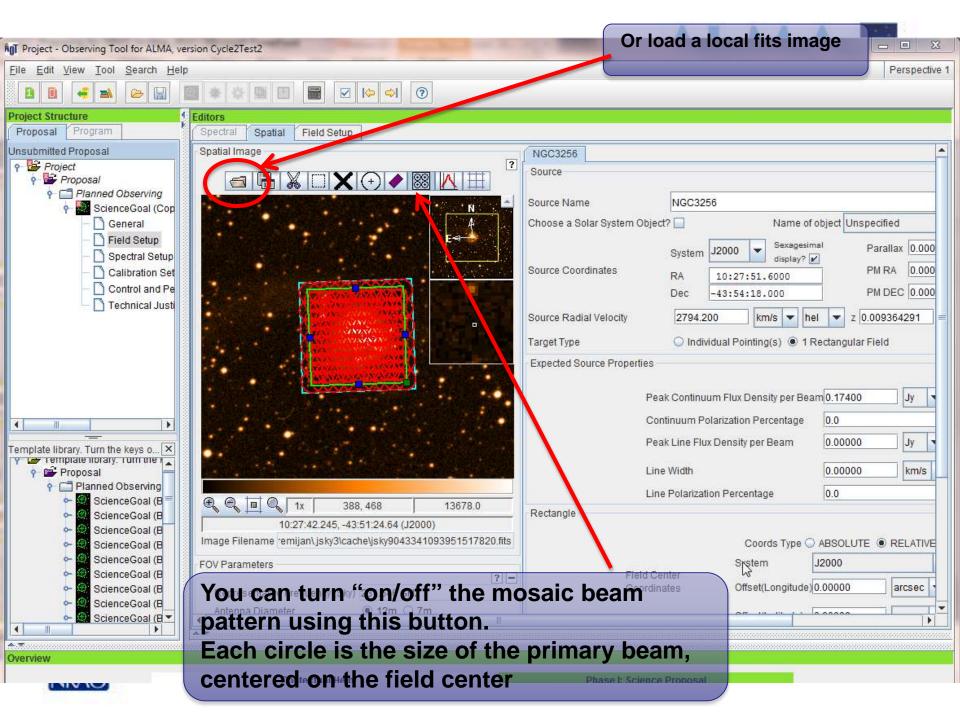




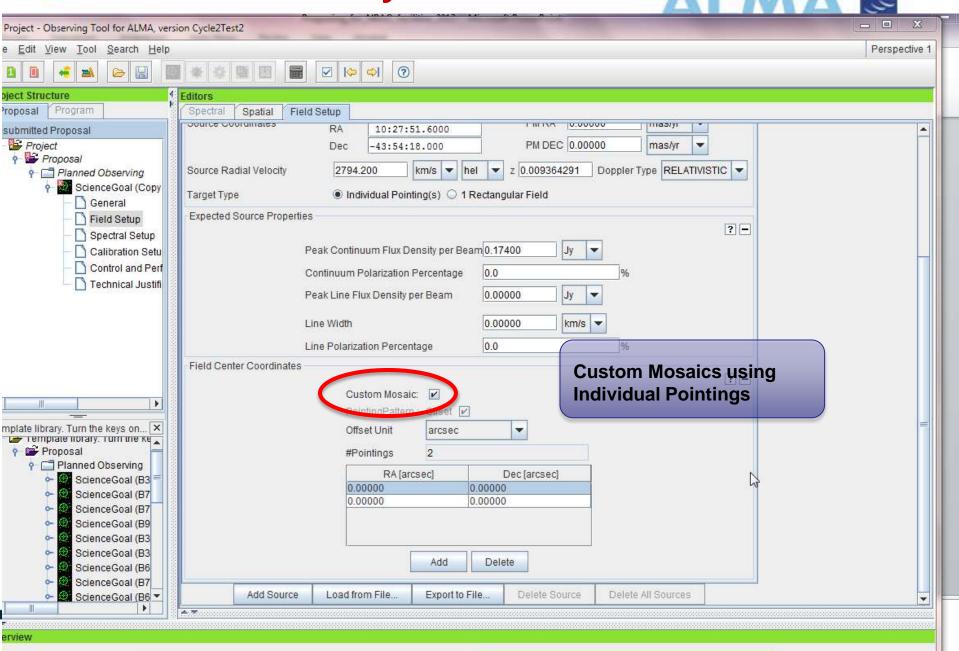


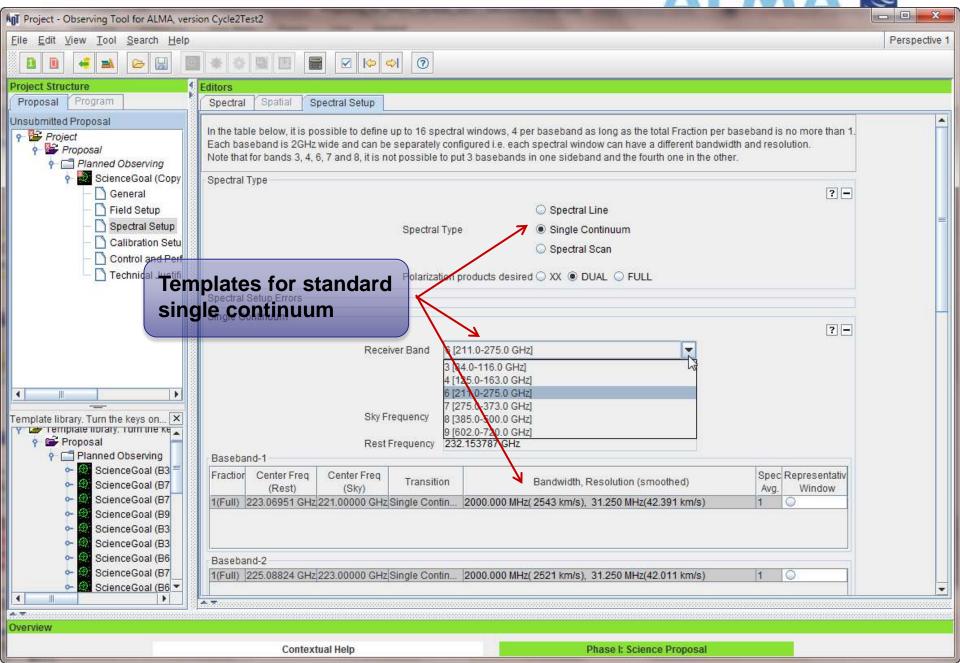


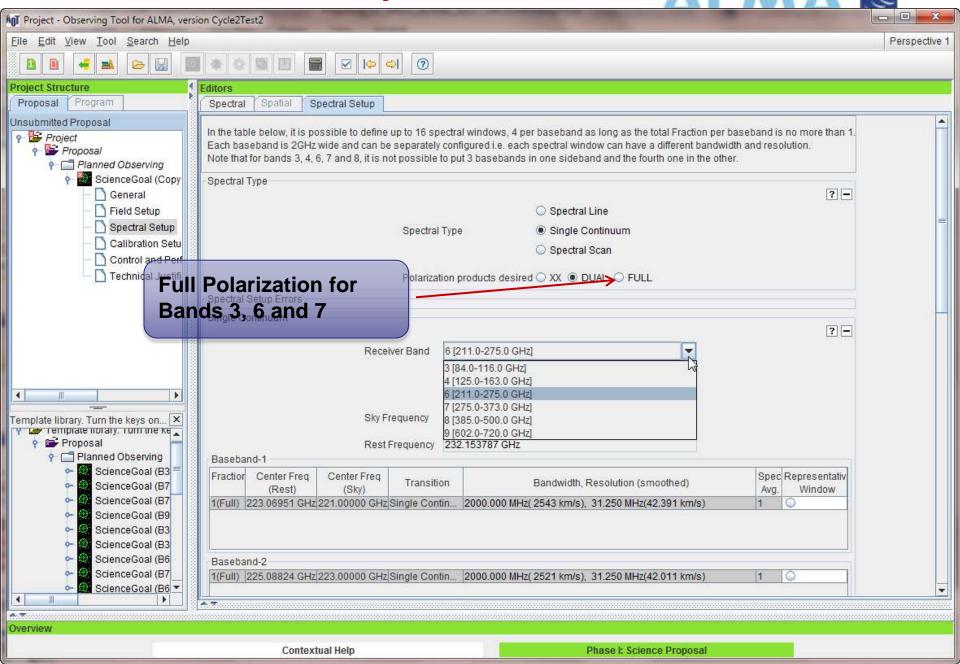




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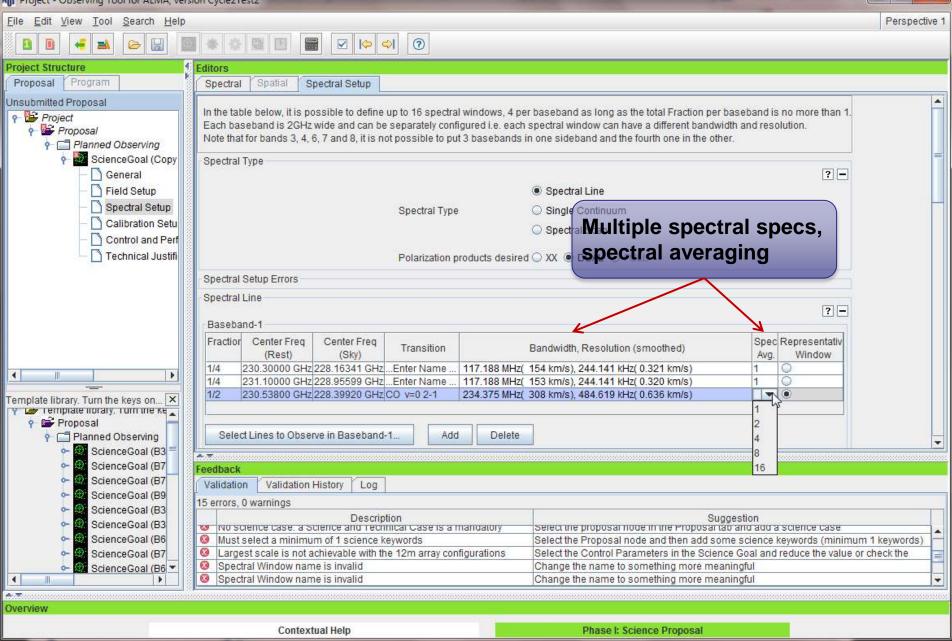






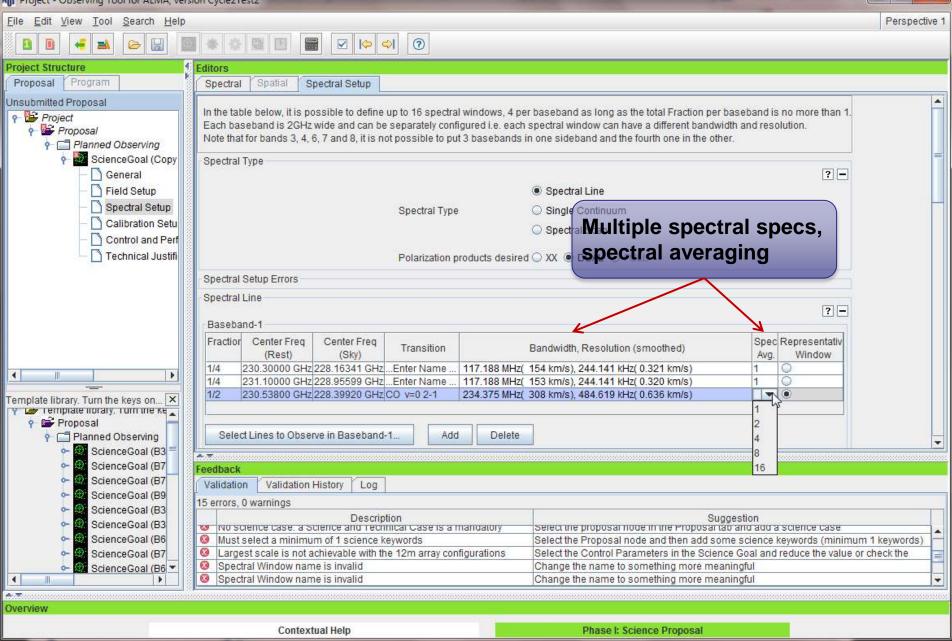
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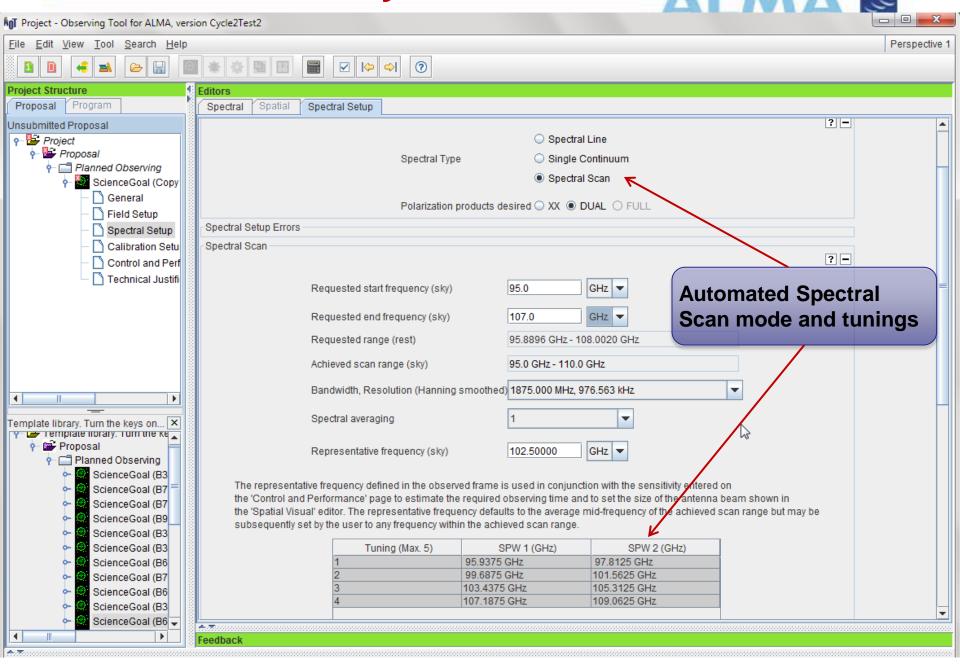
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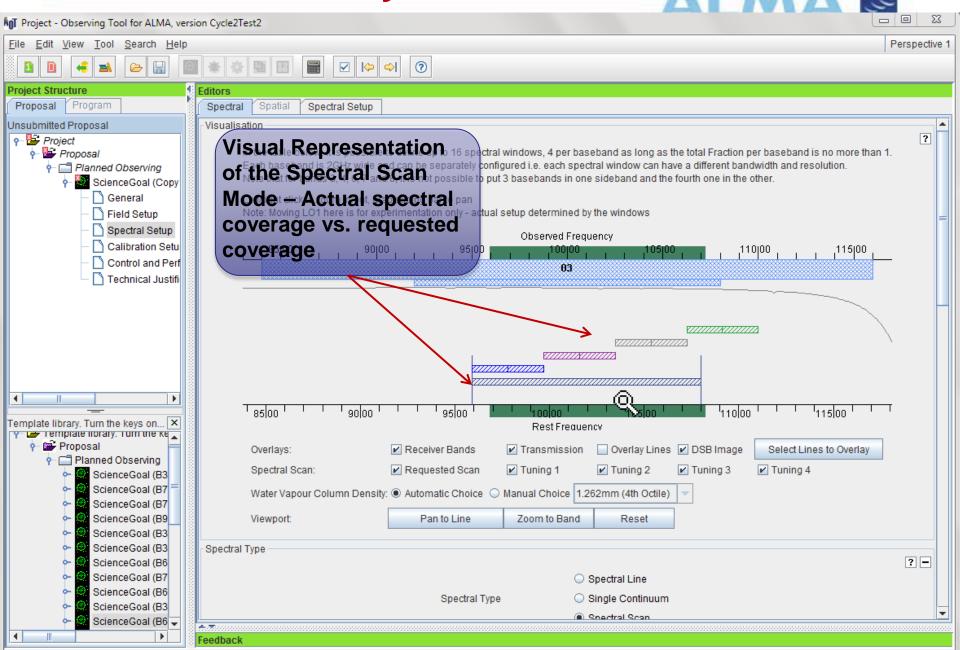


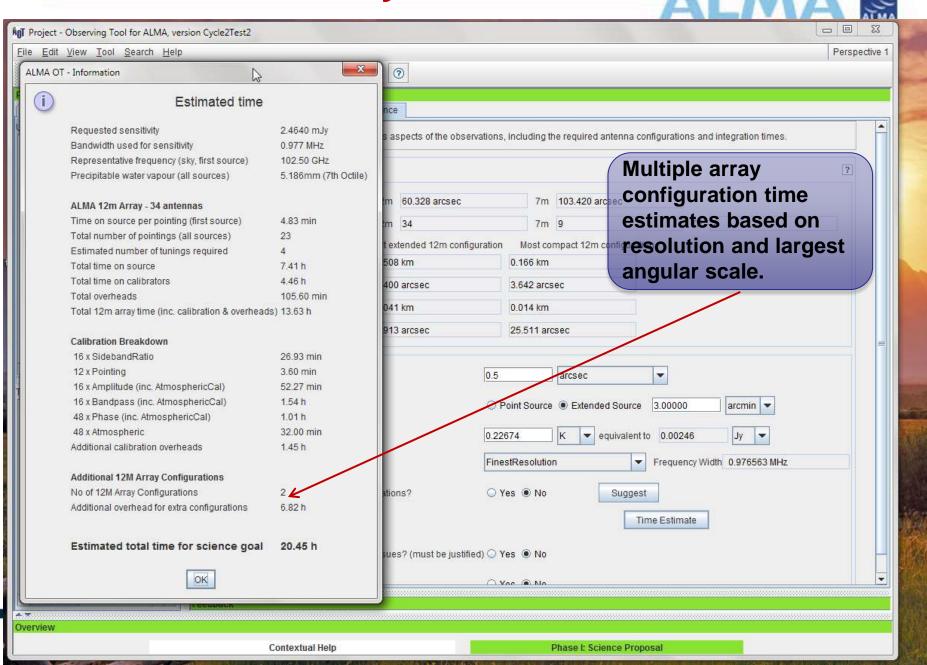
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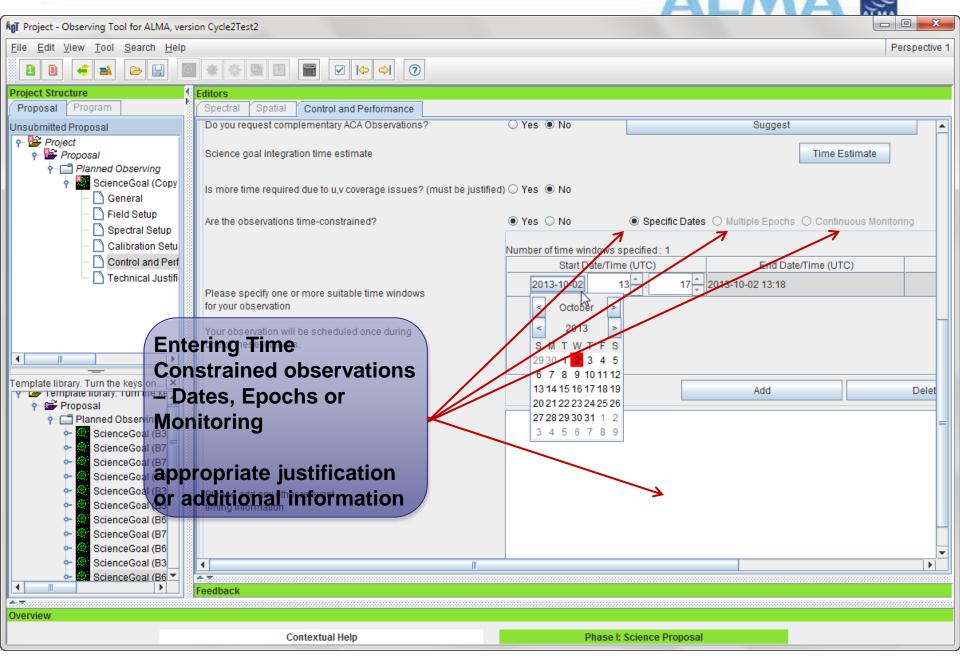
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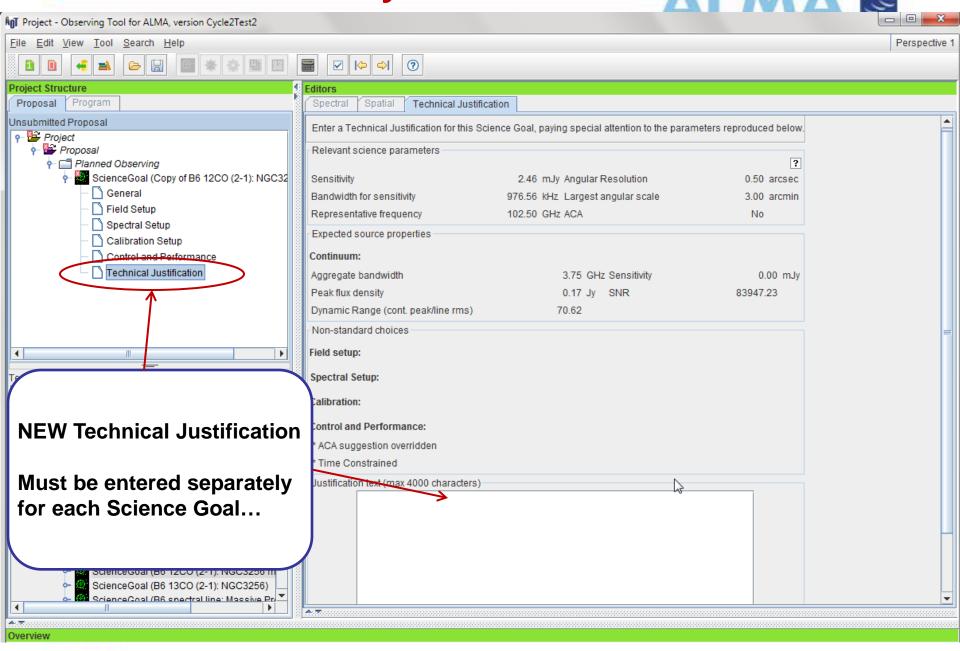




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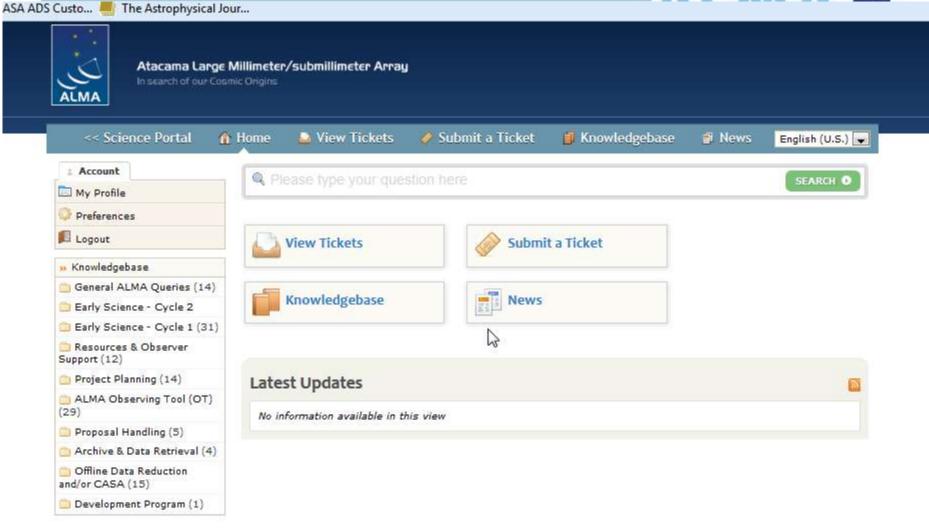
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## **ALMA Science Portal @ NRAO**

## help.almascience.org





Help Desk Software by Kayako Resolve

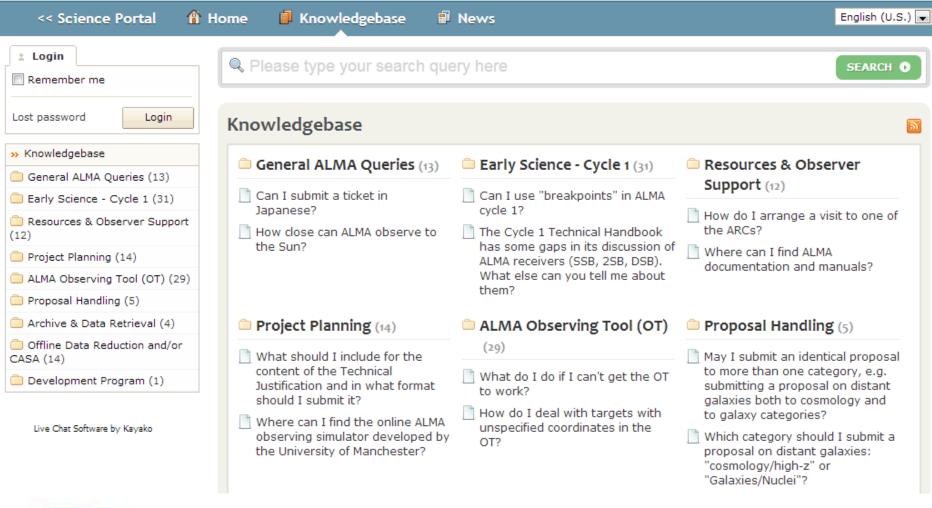


### I can use a hand...





### Have no fear, the ALMA Helpdesk is here...





## Now its your turn...



We have prepared a "playbook" for setting up an ALMA Proposal. You can follow the playbook from here:

http://casaguides.nrao.edu/index.php?title=OT\_tutorial\_SISS

If you want to try and set up an ALMA OT Phase 1 Proposal based on your science, try looking up the "Did you Know?" document prepared here:

https://science.nrao.edu/facilities/alma/facilities/alma/didyouknow

There are specifications on sensitivity, largest angular scale, angular resolution, spectral set-ups, etc...that will help guide you through the proposal preparation process.

