

ALMA-OT

Proposal Preparation

Tool

AF ALMA/NOEMA
Observatoire de Paris
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Observing-Tool

ESO ALMA Science Portal

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

Search Site

ESO NRAO NAOJ Log in | Register | Reset Password | Forgot Account

About
Science
Proposing
Observing
Data
Documents & Tools
Knowledgebase/FAQ

User Services at ARCs

- Helpdesk
- ALMA Calendars
- EU ARC
- NA ARC
- EA ARC

You are here: Home

Welcome to the Science Portal at ESO

Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array

This is the website for **The ALMA Science Portal**, served from one of the **ALMA Regional Centers (ARCs)** of the ALMA partner organizations: ESO, NRAO or NAOJ. You may switch between the different instances of the portal through the links to the appropriate ALMA partner at the top banner. Through this portal you can find details about the technical capabilities of ALMA, how to propose for observing time, and how to access ALMA data. It includes links to all official ALMA documents and tools, including those for preparing and submitting proposals and processing ALMA data. In order to access some of the tools, users must register with the project and login to the portal via the links at the top banner.

Each of the three ARCs provides additional **User Services**, including a **Helpdesk** for all user queries. Each ARC maintains additional web pages with information on region-specific user services, such as visitor and student programs, schools, workshops, financial programs and public outreach activities. These are accessed via the links under the **User Services at the ARCs** area in the left menu.

General News

ALMA Status Report:
November 2014
Nov 12, 2014

Additional Scope for Long
Baseline Science Verification
Targets
Oct 30, 2014

First Release of the ALMA
Science Pipeline
Oct 20, 2014

New Targets for Science
Verification: Long Baselines
Oct 08, 2014


New release of ALMA
Science Verification data
Sep 08, 2014


More...

Local News

Job opening at the German
ARC node
Oct 23, 2014

ALMA Observing-Tool Documentation

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



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[About](#)
[Science](#)
[Proposing](#)
[Observing](#)
[Data](#)
[Documents & Tools](#)
[Previous Cycles](#)
[Knowledgebase/FAQ](#)

User Services at ARCs

- [Helpdesk](#)
- [ALMA Calendars](#)
- [EU ARC](#)
- [NA ARC](#)
- [EA ARC](#)

You are here: [Home](#) > Documents & Tools

Summary of documents and tools available for ALMA

Call for Proposals

Documentation supporting the current ALMA Call for Proposals – **Cycle 2**.

- [ALMA Proposers Guide](#) (Contains all pertinent information regarding the ALMA Call for Proposals)
- [ALMA Technical Handbook](#) (A comprehensive description of the ALMA observatory and its components)
- [Early Science Primer](#) (Introduction to interferometry and how to use ALMA during Early Science)
- [ALMA Proposal Template](#) (LaTeX format. Recommended but not mandatory)

Observing Tool (OT)

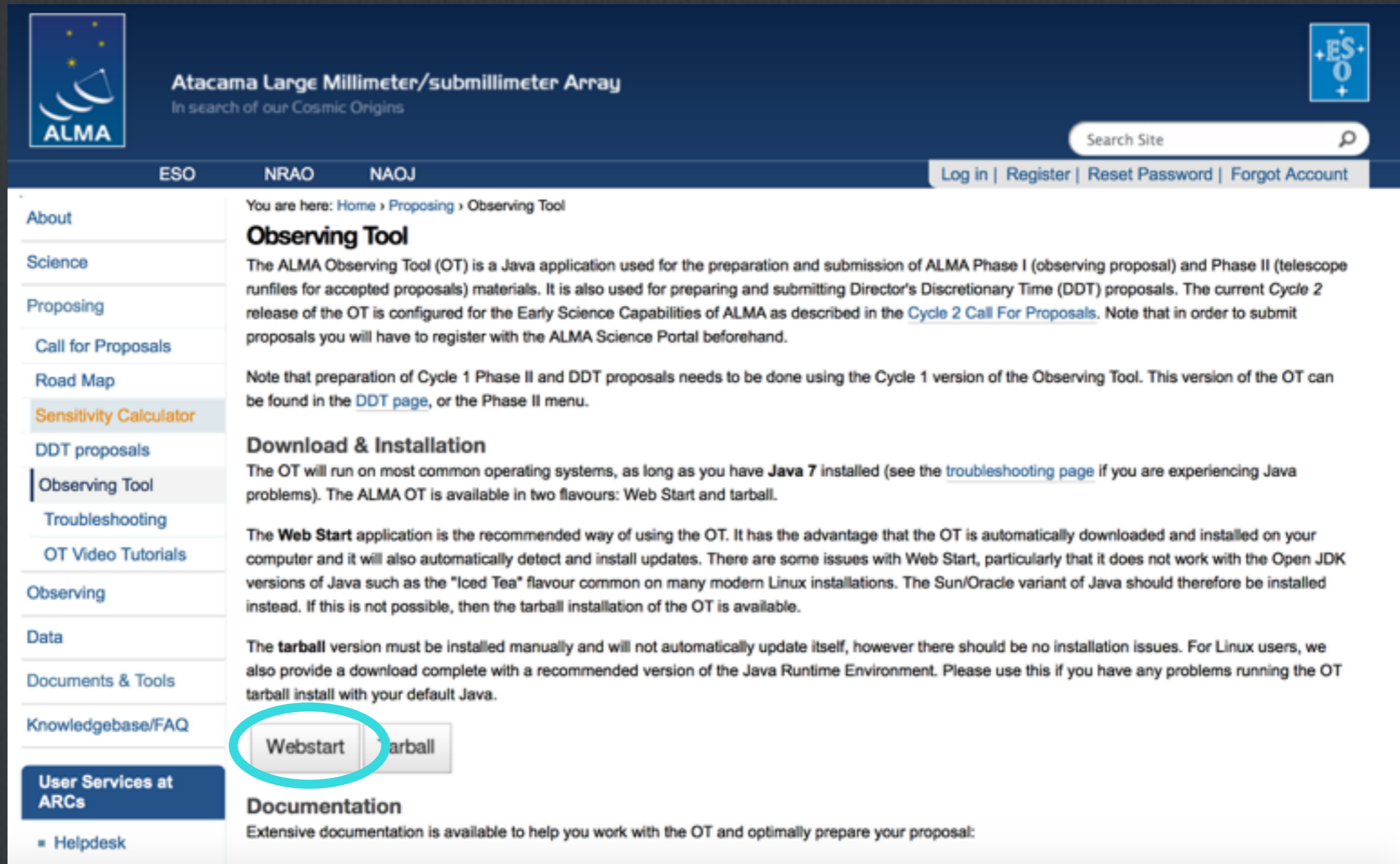
Documents and tools supporting the current ALMA Call for Proposals – **Cycle 2**.

The ALMA Observing Tool (OT) is a Java application used for the preparation and submission of ALMA Phase 1 (observing proposal) and Phase 2 (telescope runfiles for accepted proposals) materials. The current release of the OT is configured for the Early Science [Capabilities of ALMA](#). Note that in order to submit proposals you will have to register with the ALMA Science Portal beforehand.

- [ALMA Observing Tool](#) (takes you to the OT page on the Science Portal)
- [OT Quickstart](#) (A Quick Start Guide for using the Observing Tool)
- [OT User Manual](#) (Describes how to use the Observing Tool for preparing ALMA proposals)
- [OT Reference Manual](#) (An in-depth description of the Observing Tool)
- [Video Tutorials](#) on how to use the Observing Tool
- [Known OT issues](#) (for those instances when OT problems are encountered)

ALMA Observing-Tool

javaws ALMA-OT



The screenshot shows the ALMA Observing Tool website. The header includes the ALMA logo, the text "Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array In search of our Cosmic Origins", and the ESO logo. A search bar and navigation links for "Log in", "Register", "Reset Password", and "Forgot Account" are also present. The main content area is titled "Observing Tool" and provides information about the tool's purpose, installation options (Web Start and tarball), and documentation. A red circle highlights the "Webstart" button in the installation options section.

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Log in | Register | Reset Password | Forgot Account

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 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.

Note that preparation of Cycle 1 Phase II and DDT proposals needs to be done using the Cycle 1 version of the Observing Tool. This version of the OT can be found in the [DDT page](#), or the Phase II menu.

Download & Installation

The OT will run on most common operating systems, as long as you have **Java 7** 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 "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 Runtime 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:

ALMA Science Portal

ESO

Science

Proposing

Call for Proposals

Road Map

Sensitivity Calculator

DDT proposals

Observing Tool

Troubleshooting

OT Video Tutorials

Observing

Data

Documents & Tools

Knowledgebase/FAQ

User Services at ARCs

Helpdesk

<https://almascience.eso.org/proposing/observing-tool>

in summary...

- Practice with the ALMA-OT well before the dead-line**
- Ask for help and advices if necessary**
- Online video-tutorials : <https://almascience.nrao.edu/proposing/observing-tool/video-tutorials>**
- Demo : hands-on**

Video-tutorial : general features



Video-tutorial : spectral setup



Video-tutorial : Field setup

