# The LLAMA Observatory

Jacques R.D. Lepine [1] ; Ricardo F. Trindade [2] ; Danilo Zanella [3] ; Andrey Baryschev [4] ; Fatima Salete Correra [5] ; Marcos Aurelio Luqueze [6] ; Antonio Verri [5] ; Wesley Beccaro [5] ; Ciriaco Goddi [7] ; Tania Dominici [8] ; Cesar Strauss [9] ; Luiz Reitano [10] ; Guillermo G. de Castro [11] ; Jean Pierre Raulin [11] ; Paula Benaglia [12] ; Manuel Fernandez [12] ; Juan José Larrarte [12] ; Guillermo Gancio [12] ; Silvina Cichowolski [13] ; Carlos Valotto [14] ; Ricardo Finger Camus [15] ; Emiliano Rasztocky [12] ; Rodrigo Reeves [16] ;

*1 - IAG- Universidade de São Paulo. 2 - Universidade de São Paulo. 3 - IAG-Universidade de São Paulo. 4 - University of Groningen. 5 - Escola Politécnica Universidade de São Paulo. 6 - Escola Politécnica Universidade de São Paulo. 7 - IAG Universidade de São Paulo. 8 - INPE Instituto de Ciências Espaciais. 9 - INPE (Instituto Nacional de Ciências Espaciais). 10 - INPE (Instituto Ncional de Ciências Espaciais). 11 - Universidade Mackenzie. 12 - Instituto Argentino de Radioastronomia. 13 - IAFE (Instituto de Astronomia y Fisica del Espacio). 14 - CONICET Universidad de Cordoba. 15 - Das. -Universidad de Chile. 16 - CePia Universidad de Concepción.*

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**Resumen**

The LLAMA Observatory, in the Argentinian Andes at 4800m altitude, in the Salta province, is a project of Argentina and Brazil, which started in 2014 with an agreement between FAPESP ( research foundation of Sao Paulo State), University of São Paulo, and MinCyt ( Ministry of Science and technology of Argentina. The expenses will be equally shared. The 12m diameter antenna was constructed by VERTEX Antennentechnik GmbH (Duisburg, Germany). The surface precision of the dish will reach 15 microns r.m.s. deviations from an ideal parabola, after a period of fine adjustments. The antenna will perform observations at mm and sub-mm radio waves, like the international ALMA interferometer. The LLAMA antenna will be equipped with two lateral Nasmith cabins, similarly to the APEX antenna. Initially, we will work with receivers band 5, band 6 and band 9 (band names of the ALMA observatory), constructed at NOVA Labs (University of Groningen, Holland). Brazil contributed to the acquisition of receivers and construction of sub-systems , like the optomechanical system to be installed inside the Nasmith and Cassegrain cabins, the cryogenics, and cryostat,where the receivers will be installed. and a system for holography.

The mounting of the antenna, which was slow in last years is going quite rapidly now, after Mincyt attributed to INVAP, a strong engineering and technological company, the task of mounting. It is predicted that the mounting will be concluded in March 2024, and the first light will happen 2 years later.

The main scientific uses will be in the following areas: Galaxy Formation in the Early Universe; Astrochemistry: molecular evolution of interstellar clouds; Identification of unknown lines; Extra-solar planets and proto-planetary disks; polarimetry of radio sources and of the Interstellar Medium; Solar Physics (few antennas at this frequency can be pointed towards the Sun, like LLAMA).


The dish of the LLAMA Radio Telescope being mounted.