

ALMA Science

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What Cycle 13 proposal issues and clarifications should I be aware of before submitting my proposal?

Sarah Bagley - 2026-04-22 - General

This Knowledgebase article is a repository for information relevant to submission of Cycle 13 proposals. These items may affect how users write their proposals or set up their observations in the OT. The content may evolve rapidly as the 23 April 2026 proposal deadline approaches. Items added to this list after its initial deployment will include the date they were added. We encourage all PIs to check back here regularly prior to proposal submission.

Important News Items:

- **Please watch this space for quick updates during the call**
- The PDF for my newly submitted proposal on SnooPI is missing all parts except the science justification (or includes information from an older proposal)!
 - The web-OT does not submit the entire PDF to the server, only the science case. The full PDFs will be generated by the Observatory after the deadline and before the distribution to the reviewers (and will be retrievable again from SnooPI).
Currently you can only generate the full PDF on the web-OT clicking on the button just below the Abstract, or the icon (of a pdf document) in the header in the top right.

[Announcement for early proposal planning for Cycle 13](#)

[Web-based OT for Cycle 13 Call and expected capabilities during Cycle 14](#)

[Cycle 13 Announcement](#)

[Cycle 13 Documentation](#)

[Cycle 13 Proposer's Guide](#)

Date

Milestone

19 March 2026	Release of the ALMA Cycle 13 Call for Proposals and Observing Tool, and opening of the archive for proposal submission
23 April 2026 (15:00 UT)	Proposal submission deadline
October 2026	Start of Cycle 13 observations

Observing Tool Known Issues - [Please check this page for updates on OT known issues](#)

Issue	Description
C13_001	Band 2 Single Continuum: The wider separation of continuum spectral windows possible for Band 2 is currently only implemented for the default sky frequency. If a user wants to take advantage of the broader IF range of Band 2 for a continuum setup, then the spectral line mode should be used, choosing the broad correlator modes for all spectral windows.
C13_002	Field setup - Rectangular Field: If a source is set up with Target Type "1 Rectangular Field", the observations require the TP array and then the source list is replaced from a file, the validation error "When TP is scheduled, non-mosaic targets must only have a single pointing" is raised. In this case, reset the Target Type to "1 Rectangular Field" for each source in the Field Setup.
C13_003	Field Setup - Pointings: Switching between Rectangular and Individual pointings as well as coordinate systems can lead to large numbers of the pointings. If that is the case, please reset the pointings to the desired values.
C13_004	Field Setup - Pointings/Rectangular Field - Spatial Visualizer: The spatial visualizer does not allow to move or remove individual pointings or to draw, resize, or rotate the rectangular field.
C13_005	Control & Performance - Spatial resolution: If the Desired Angular resolution is set to "Any" and the spectral setup and calibrator availability require Band-to-band observations, a 500: OK error is raised upon validation. Additionally, the PDF generation does not work. As a workaround, the Desired Angular resolution shall be set to "Custom" and the full range of C-1 to C-6 be chosen.
C13_006	Control & Performance - LAS (B2): For Band 2 projects, the GUI might raise an error under the "Largest Angular Structure in source" field if the sensitivity is not yet specified. The LAS will only raise a validation error if the LAS is so large that ACA (or ACA+TP) observations are triggered.
C13_007	Field Setup - Spatial Visualizer: If you are opening a multi-dimensional FITS file, the spatial visualizer will only display the last dimension. Either write out only that dimension or change the order of dimensions to display the correct one.
C13_008	Generate PDF: If you opened your project as new from a submitted one, then the generated PDF might not contain your science case document. If this is true, make a small change to your abstract and reload your project. The generated PDF now contains your science case.
C13_009	Spectral Setup - Spectral Line Picker: The spectral line picker in the web OT is only using the offline catalogue of Splatalogue that was implemented in the desktop OT. There is currently no connection to the online catalogue. Thus, not all lines available in Splatalogue will be visible in the spectral line picker. As a workaround, spectral windows can be added manually, centred on the desired spectral line.
C13_010	Spectral Setup - Spectral line: If the spectral window of the representative frequency has the narrowest bandwidth, then the times shown in the PDF might not agree with the times in Time Summary (or maybe even be infinity). If that is the case, please re-select the 58 MHz correlator mode in the spectral setup. The times should then be correct in the PDF.