

Science Advisory Group for EVLA

EVLA Advisory Committee Meeting, March 19-20, 2009



K.Y. Lo & R. Perley

NRAO Director & EVLA Project Scientist

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



SAGE

- Science Advisory Group for EVLA (SAGE)
 - A group formed to advise on scientific priorities for the EVLA
- First meeting on May 22-23, 2007
- Second meeting on December 19-20, 2008

Participants

- D. Helfand (chair) – Columbia University
- J van Gorkum – Columbia University
- S. Kurtz – UNAM
- L. Greenhill – Center for Astrophysics
- A. Baker – Rutgers University
- K. Menten (chair elect) – MPIfR
- J. Mohr – University of Illinois
- A. Barger – University of Wisconsin
- S. Dougherty – National Research Council, HIA
- S. Vogel – University of Maryland
- M. Yun – University of Massachusetts
- R. Perley - NRAO

Charge for Second Meeting of SAGE

- Based on the baseline capabilities described to the SAGE in the presentations that began its present meeting, the Committee is asked to recommend a process to involve the community to propose early science experiments for the EVLA that would highlight and exploit the instrument's new scientific capabilities.
- Based on scientific potential, the SAGE is asked to recommend the development of post-baseline capabilities to be delivered to the community.
- The SAGE is requested to recommend whether to hold workshops based on facilities or on a scientific focus. Accordingly, the SAGE is asked to propose topics for the next science workshop in 2009.
- NRAO is establishing a Resident Shared Risk Observing program for EVLA commissioning. Please comment on the program and its ability to provide early, exciting scientific returns during the commissioning process.
- SAGE is requested to recommend strategies for commensal observations.

Summary of Recommendations

- Endorsed shared risk observing program
 - Engages experienced scientists in commissioning
- Recommended aggressive EVLA advertising in a variety of ways
- Proposed a prioritized growth path for science capabilities
 - Implement wide bandwidth capability
 - Implement WIDAR recirculation (improved spectral resolution)
 - Enable high-frequency operation
 - Phased array operation and VLBI compatibility should be given priority over pulsar capabilities, radar mode , and burst mode
- Recommended a second EVLA science workshop
 - On stars, to be held in Socorro on May 26-28
 - http://www.aoc.nrao.edu/events/evla_stars09/
- Noted that the issue of commensal observations is a complex one, and encouraged broader discussion within the community