

Welcome words

Good morning, and welcome to the beautiful city of Salta (in fact, it is known as 'Salta la linda').

What gathers us here this week is the instrument that has been called LLAMA everywhere and YAMA in Argentinean accent, more specifically, the region around La Plata River. Or Large Latin American Millimeter Array.

As we will hear in one of today's opening talks, the project was conceived many years ago, and soon became a binational venture between Argentina and Brazil. This is providing an excellent opportunity to join efforts for technological development and research between the two countries. And both countries will count with extensive time on a competitive instrument, that will allow them to implement long observing campaigns.

We expect that LLAMA will boost the formation of radio astronomers in the observing techniques -hands on- related to millimeter and submillimeter waves.

And that it will promote, through its discoveries, the decentralization of Radio Astronomy in Argentina, while it will contribute intensively to the development of a scientific pole at the Puna region, in the northwest.

Important parts of the radio telescope arrived in early 2018, and are stored on site, in the Alto Chorrillos region, about 100 miles from here, at a very high altitude. This is another thing to highlight about LLAMA: it will be one of the very few instruments working through a less attenuating atmosphere.

Its 12-m parabolic dish will collect for further recording the signals from the celestial sources. We will today also find out about the updated status of the telescope.

A couple of years ago, I dare to say the project, from this side of the border, was in some way reignited. The Ministry of Science and Technology, through the Secretary of scientific-technological articulation, is imprinting a lot of energy -including strong financing- to materialize the undertaking in the next years.

So, they bring us here to learn, from the hand of a bunch of experts, key scientific topics where LLAMA can relevantly contribute as a vehicle to competitive results.

On behalf of the SOC, let me warmly thank the lecturers that have come from here and far, and all participants, who will surely turn this meeting into a very fruitful experience.

Paula Benaglia.