Poster abstract for SOCHIAS 2007:

**ALMA Common Software development Group at UTFSM**

The ALMA Common Software (ACS) is a distributed framework that provides a common and homogeneous infrastructure for the whole software of the ALMA project, from high-level data flow applications down to instrument control. Due the potential of the ACS subsystem goes much beyond the astronomic instrumentation, it can be used in nearly every distributed system, outside ALMA.

This software is developed by various institutions around the world, such as ESO, NRAO, Cosylab and the ACS-UTFSM Group\(^1\) in Valparaíso. This group of students and professors of the Computer Science Department of the Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María started its work in 2004, as an initiative to collaborate with the ACS project, in close coordination with the ESO Headquarter in Garching. Since 2007 its operations are financed by the ALMA-Conicyt Fund\(^2\), with a three years horizon.

Currently the ACS-UTFSM Group is working on various projects, which will mainly converge into the Generic Telescope Control System (gTCS) project, which pretend to be a generic control system for several, and why not all, professional telescope models. The first transitional objectives are the *Control System for Amateur Telescopes* (CSAT) and *Repackaging ACS for Embedded Systems* (RAES) projects, which are in development phase.

Today three former team members are working at NRAO's ALMA Test Facility in Socorro, New Mexico. Collaboration projects are being developed with the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and further with the Universidad de Valparaíso. The team will continue growing and working, but mainly, just for fun!

*Matus Mora Klein*

*Mauricio Araya Lopez*

---

1. ACS-UTFSM Group web site: http://acs.inf.utfsm.cl
2. ALMA-Conicyt Project 31060008: “Software Development for ALMA: Building up Expertise to meet ALMA Software Requirements within a Chilean University”.