

Building the Submillimeter Array

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Telescope building is like child rearing. The pleasures of building a novel instrument can indeed be great. However, the stress and aggravation associated with such an activity can also be daunting. The Submillimeter Array project was conceived in 1984, gained an incremental start to funding in 1989, was dedicated in 2003, and has worked smoothly since about 2005. I will describe the experience and make some comparisons with ALMA.