Advances Towards an ALMA Band-1 Receiver

F.P.Mena^{1*}, N. Reyes^{1,2}, P. Zorzi¹, C. Jarufe^{1,2}, J. Pizarro², L. Bronfman², J. May²

1 Electrical Engineering Department, Universidad de Chile, Av. Tupper 2007, Santiago, Chile

2 Astronomy Department, Universidad de Chile, Camino El Observatorio 1515, Santiago, Chile

* Contact: pmena@ing.uchile.cl, phone +56-2-978 4888

This work received support from the Center of Excellence in Astrophysics and

Associated Technologies (PBF 06) and from the ALMA-CONICYT Fund for the Development of Chilean Astronomy (Projects 31080003 and 31080004).

Abstract—Despite its low frequency range, band 1 of ALMA (30–45 GHz) presents several challenges for its realization. In particular, the required noise temperature of the system (17 K at 80% of the band) combined with the design of the antenna imposes stringent requirements on low noise amplifiers and focusing optics. A preliminary analysis of the optics sets the specifications of the amplifiers on a maximum noise temperature of 10 K (five times the quantum limit) and a minimum gain of 20 dB. Here we present our recent efforts towards achieving these requirements. Furthermore, we will present the results of construction and characterization of several parts necessary for the future implementation of the receiver.