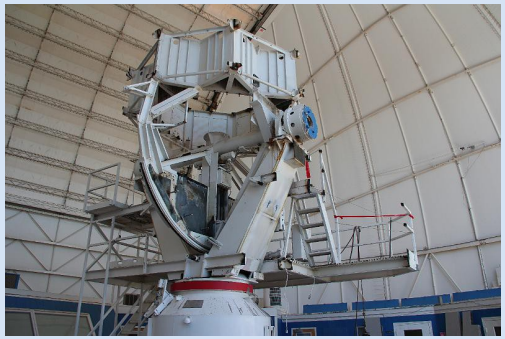




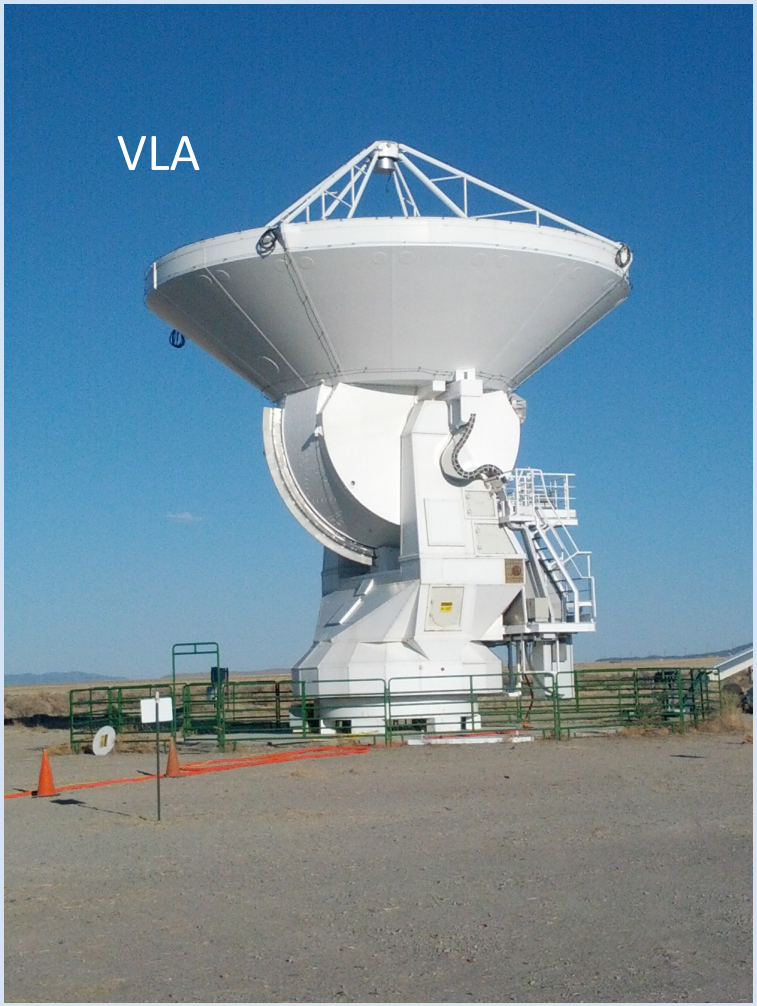






The APA project begins: laying the foundation for the new antenna in the dome at Kitt Peak, after decommissioning the old 12 m.







Before (left) and after (right): after a summer of work, the antenna is ready for disassembly and transport.









In November, the transport begins with separation of the dish from the pedestal/receiver cabin. First, cranes and rigging.









Then lift-off at the VLA ! One crane does the job.







Now it's the pedestal's turn; two cranes required.









Up, up, and away…
and then a back flip.









The pedestal is slowly lowered onto the transport truck.







The pedestal leaves New Mexico, dodging traffic in Socorro.



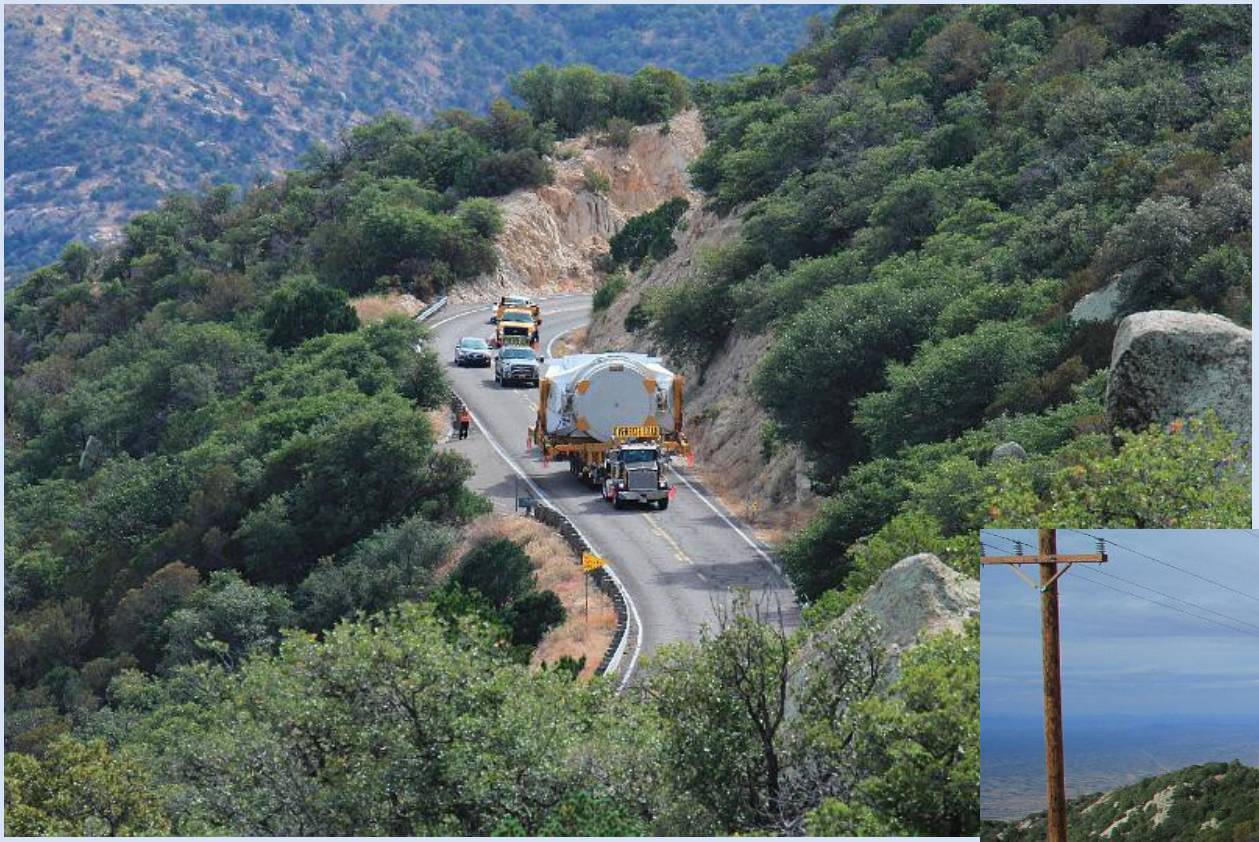






APA “on the move”: Across New Mexico and into Arizona..







The 72 ton pedestal makes it way up Kitt Peak and to the site.









The pedestal is lifted into the dome in the midst of a winter storm on November 22. “The eagle has landed.”



Arizona Radio Observatory

The University of Arizona Tucson Arizona

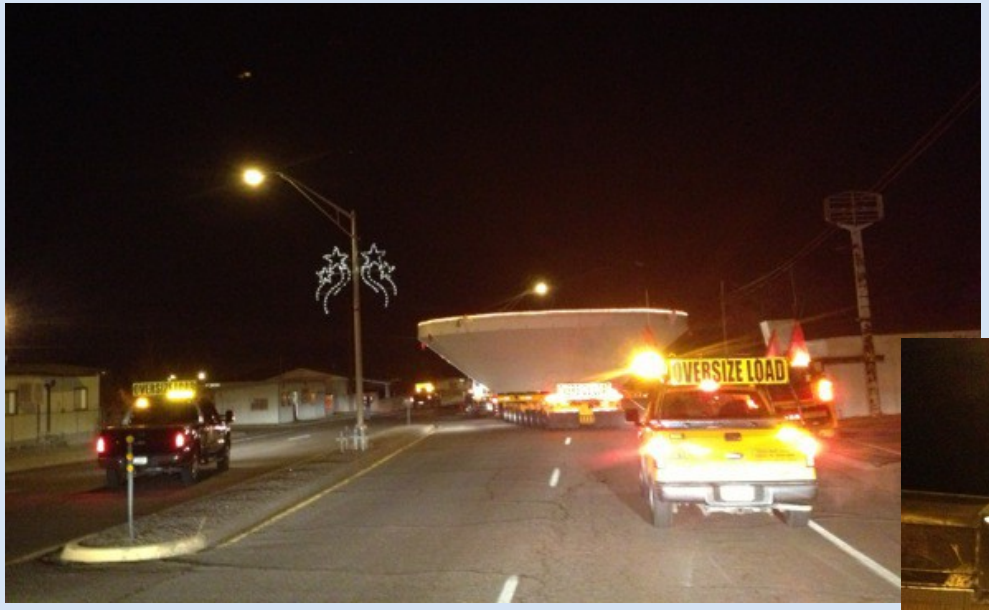






Now it's the reflector's turn for the journey. Bye, bye, VLA. Thanks, NRAO !









The night trip on the Goldhoffer: watch those under passes!









More antenna acrobatics, but now the dish is ready to go up Kitt Peak.







Meanwhile, the cranes arrive at the site, while pedestal waits in the dome.



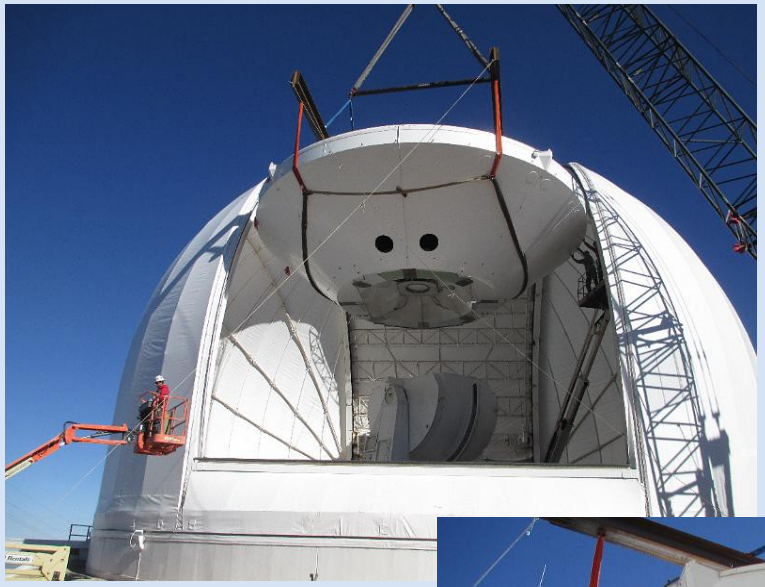




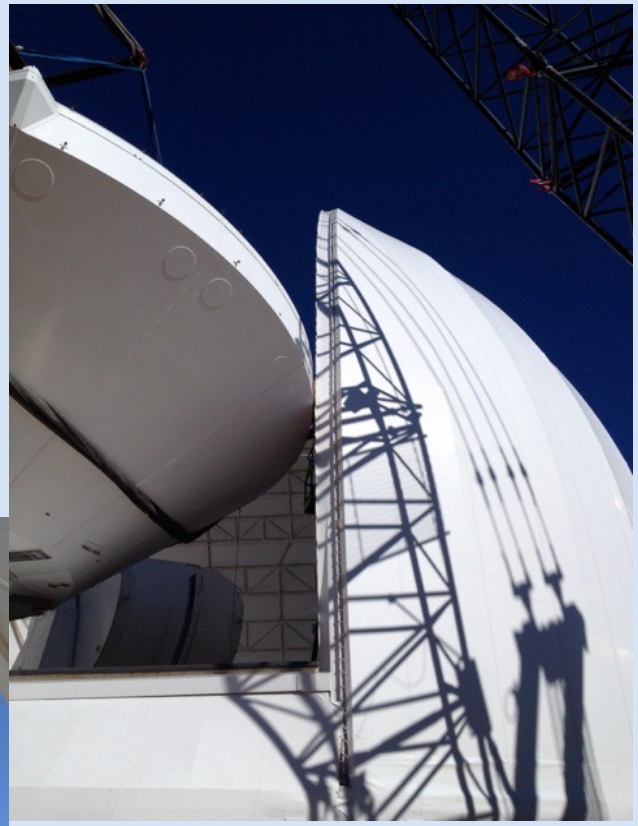


The reflector makes the 10 mile journey up the mountain, avoiding rocks and trees.



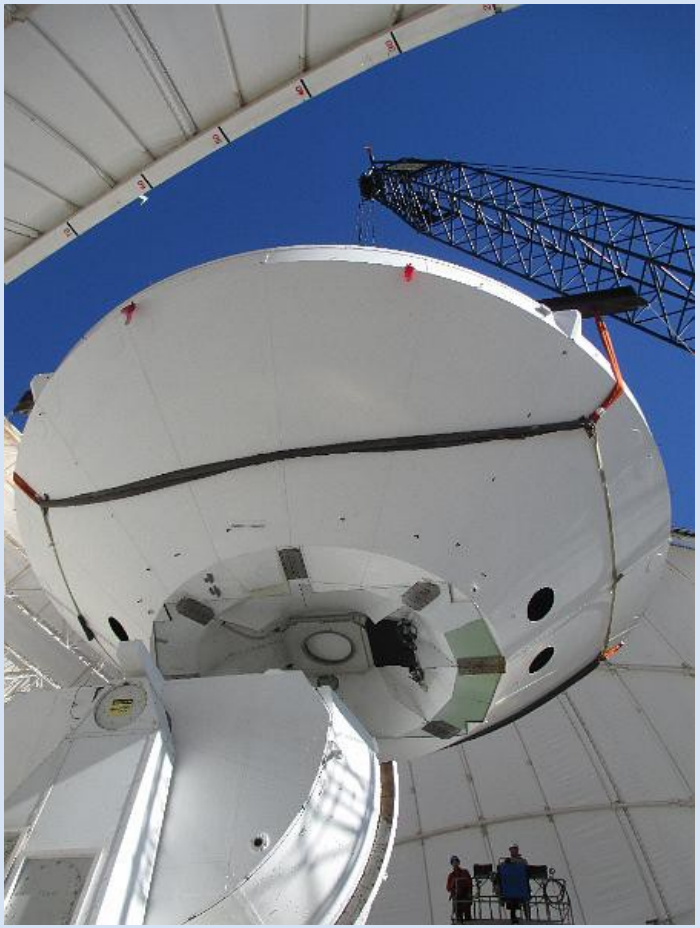






December 14: The final lift. The reflector makes it through the narrow dome door with an inch to spare.









Docking successful! Dish meets pedestal without mishap.





Home at last! Welcome the new ARO 12 m antenna !

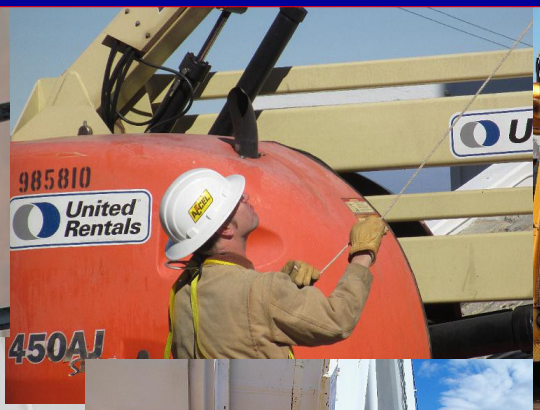


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Tucson Arizona

THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT MADE THIS POSSIBLE!!!!



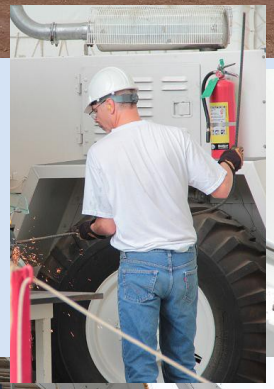
























PAA