

# SKA-France

Monthly bulletin

August 2017

## SKA-France

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## News from the SKA-France coordination

### SKA-France in the SKAO News

The SKA Organisation keeps following with interest all the SKA-France activities. A summary of the SKA-France initiatives from April to July 2017 is included in the August edition of the [SKA eNewsletter](#), in the section "[News from Observer Countries](#)". The [PDF version](#) of the SKA eNews is also available on line.

### Letter of support from Thales Alenia Space

Since several months, the SKA-France coordination is receiving important support letters from French industrial partners, which are available for download at the [SKA-France web page](#).

In this perspective, after Ariane Group, ATOS, Callisto, DDN Storage, Engie, FEDD and NVIDIA, a relevant expression of interest was sent last month to the SKA-France coordination by Thales Alenia Space (TAS), a joint-venture of the groups Thales and Leonardo, worldwide known in the fields of telecommunication, navigation, Earth observation, and construction and operation of orbital infrastructures.

The interest of TAS in the SKA project is mostly related to two key-aspects of the SKA, that are analysis of Big Data volumes, system engineering and integration.

These fields of interest are based on the expertise gained through the participation of TAS to major projects, such as ALMA, EGNOS and GALILEO.

Like the other letters of support, the [TAS letter](#) is available on-line at the SKA-France web page.



### Last SKA Board meeting

During the last meeting of the SKA Board (July 18-19, 2017; Den Haag) the results of the Cost Control Project initiated last November have been evaluated.

Discussions were based on the scientific scrutiny of the different cost-saving options performed by the [SKA Science Working Groups](#), the [Science and Engineering Advisory Committee](#) and dedicated external [Science Assessment Teams](#).

A key outcome has been the adoption of the concept of a 'deployment baseline', which corresponds to the telescopes currently deliverable at the funding level of €674M. The deployment baseline takes advantage of the scalable nature of interferometers.

The current deployment baseline, together with more details about the Board discussions, is available [on-line](#).

## Activities

### Meeting about French participation to SKA Band 5

A workshop hosted by the French company Callisto took place on July 26, 2017 in Toulouse. The main objectives of the meeting were:

- \* to describe the cryogenic solutions that could be provided by Callisto and of interest for the Phase 1 of the SKA project;
- \* to discuss and identify possible French funding for collaborative projects between Callisto, other companies and research laboratories, in particular the Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Bordeaux (LAB), already deeply involved in Band 5 developments.

Following these two objectives, the meeting included representatives from Callisto, SKA-France coordination, LAB and Sysmece Ingénierie (an SME offering scientific and technical expertise in research and development, with manufacturing capabilities).

An internal report of the fruitful discussions that took place is available for the Organisations present at the meeting.

## Announcements

### Deadline of the call for expressions of interest

As announced in the Issue 8 of the SKA-France bulletin (May 2017), we invite all members of the French community to express their interest in the SKA project by completing the form at the web page "[Le projet SKA m'intéresse](#)". The list of signatures will be presented as an annexe to the French SKA White Book, which will be published in Fall 2017.

**Deadline for signing up the call:** September 15, 2017

### A logo for SKA-France

The SKA-France coordination has now a logo that has been designed in collaboration with the SKA Communication team. It will be adopted during the preparation phase towards a possible French official membership in the SKA project.

We are happy to present the SKA-France logo in this issue of the bulletin!



*Chiara Ferrari*  
for the SKA-France coordination