

SKA-France

Monthly bulletin

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First SKA France Day

The **First SKA France Day** took place on **October 16th, 2017** in the Jaurès amphitheater of the **ENS Ulm, Paris**.

With **120 participants**, including representatives of SKAO, of the Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation, of organisations and institutions, as well as researchers and industrial partners, the meeting offered an important opportunity for exchanges and questions about the SKA project.

The **presentation of the French SKA White Book** (see below) clearly showed a wide awareness within the French community about the great challenges offered by the SKA project, both for research laboratories and for private companies.

The presentations of the SKA by Phil Diamond (SKA DG) and of SKA France by C. Ferrari (SKA France coordinator) were followed by ten talks illustrating some of the most original scientific and technological French contributions to the project. The meeting ended with the presentation by G. Marquette (SKA ILO) of the "**Maison SKA France**", a new structure towards which the SKA France coordination is evolving, created as an instrument in response to the necessity of an innovative financial approach for large research infrastructures.

[All presentations are available at the SKA France web page.](#)



Catherine Cesarsky Elected Chair Of The SKA Board Of Directors

Following the recommendation from its Search Committee, on November 13th, 2017, the Board of the SKA Organisation approved the appointment, with immediate effect, of its new chair, Mrs Catherine Cesarsky. Mrs Cesarsky, who, among prestigious appointments, was Director General of the European Southern Observatory (ESO) between 1999 and 2007, succeeds Mr Lars Börjesson, interim chair of the SKA Board after the tragic passing away of Mr Giovanni Bignami (May 2017).

[Further information on the SKAO web page.](#)

French SKA White Book

The preparation of the **French SKA White Book** was started at the beginning of 2017 with the aim of illustrating the scientific and technological interests of the French community for the SKA project. The White Book was completed during the summer, and its main content was **presented during the First SKA France Day, on October 16th**.

This work includes the contribution of **176 authors** from **40 research laboratories** and **6 private companies**. Their fields of interest cover all topics of the international SKA Science Working Groups, as well as the main ambitious technological challenges of the SKA.

The main body of the book is introduced by a short presentation of the project and a summary of the French situation and interests. Two conclusive chapters illustrate the fascinating interdisciplinary nature of the SKA and the “Maison SKA France” (see above).

It is a pleasure to announce that the French SKA White Book is now freely available on line.

French SKA White Book

The French community towards the Square Kilometre Array



Editor in Chief:
C. Ferrari

Editors:

- G. Lagache, J.-M. Martin, B. Semelin — Cosmology and Extra-galactic astronomy
- M. Alves, K. Ferrière, M.-A. Miville-Deschenes, L. Montier — Galactic Astronomy
- E. Josselin, N. Vilmer, P. Zarka — Planets, Sun, Stars and Civilizations
- S. Corbel, S. Vergani — Transient Universe
- S. Lambert, G. Theureau — Fundamental Physics
- S. Bosse, A. Ferrari, S. Gaufré — Technological Developments
- G. Marquette — Industrial Perspectives and Solutions



Paris Observatory officially involved in the SKA AADC Consortium

Paris Observatory has just officially joined the SKA AADC Consortium. Its contribution is based on the internationally recognised expertise of the **electronic team of the Radioastronomy Station of Nançay**.

Since the SKA re-costing activity of spring/early summer 2017, the Nançay team is working on the realisation of a LND (Low Noise Delay) to decrease the power consumption, with the same RF performances and a better integration.

The same team has been deeply involved in the conception of mid-frequency aperture arrays since 2004. This led to the construction of the EMBRACE prototype in collaboration with ASTRON (NL), to the ANR project “Aperture Array Integrated Receiver” (AAIR), and, in 2013, to the official involvement of Nançay in the SKA AAMID consortium.

Activities

AENEAS meeting



After the kick-off meeting of the H2020 project AENEAS “Advanced European Network of E-infrastructures for Astronomy with the SKA” (February 28th and March 1st, 2017, Den Haag, The Netherlands), the first All-hands meeting was held in Granada from October 18th to October 20th, 2017.

The different Work Packages presented their on-going activities and future plans. These include in particular the analysis of several surveys circulated within the community in order to start identifying the optimised way to organise the future SKA European data centre.

The next All-hands meeting will be held in Nice (France) in March 2018.

Announcements

Journalists visit Nançay Radioastronomy Station

On October 20th, 2017, a delegation of the association of scientific journalists from the information press (AJSP) visited the Radioastronomy Station of Nançay (Paris Observatory/CNRS/Orléans University). This was an opportunity to discuss about radioastronomy in general, the Station, the results of its existing instruments, the construction of NenuFAR and the SKA project. A successful visit under the sun!



Chiara Ferrari
for the SKA-France coordination