

# SKA-France

Monthly bulletin

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## SKA-France

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## News from the SKA-France coordination

### New member of the SKA-France Coordination Team

*"I have worked at Observatoire de Paris on the structure and evolution of galaxies, using a number of millimetre wave radiotelescopes and telescopes worldwide. I had also been vice-president of Observatoire de Paris, then from 2001 to 2003, I had been in charge of astronomy at the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS/INSU); in that period I was involved on the programmatic side in the beginnings of the ALMA project. From 2004 to 2006, I had been President of the French astronomical Society (SF2A). Then, from 2005 to 2007 I had been director of a space laboratory near Paris, Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale. During that period, I was the project manager for Astronet, a FP7 Eranet aimed at producing a science and infrastructure roadmap for the European astronomy, of which I was the initiator together with Anne-Marie Lagrange.*



**Fabienne Casoli**  
(Paris Observatory)

*Between 2007 and 2017, I had worked at CNES, the French space agency, first as Head of the Space Science, Microgravity and Exploration office in CNES, then deputy director of the directorate for Innovation, Applications and Science in charge of the scientific directorate of CNES. In November 2017, I left CNES and joined LERMA department at Observatoire de Paris, with the role of coordinator for SKA related activities within Paris Observatory. I am very happy to work for SKA-France, in a very active team for a fantastic project."*

In addition to her role within Paris Observatory, Fabienne has joined the SKA-France Director's Team, being in charge of coordinating the Big Data and HPC activities within SKA-France.



### Important documents from SKAO

Robert Braun, SKA Science Director, has recently circulated two important documents to the members of the SKA [Science Working Groups \(SWG\)](#).

The "[Science and Operation Planning](#)" describes the major science milestones of SKA1, including:

- Preparatory activities
- Science commissioning
- Science verification
- Shared risk PI science
- PI science
- Key science projects

This is still an evolving document, for which feedbacks from the community to the SKA Organisation are welcome, channelled via the chairs of the SWG.

The "[SKAO Code of Ethics](#)" has also been circulated, in such a way that the community is aware of its contents and can assist in bringing any breaches of that policy to the attention of SKAO.

## Activities

### AENEAS-PRACE/GENCI meeting

On January 24, 2018, an informal meeting related to the on-going preparation of the future European SKA Regional Center (SRC) was organised in Paris by the SKA-France coordination in collaboration with Jean-Pierre Vilotte (in charge of HPC and Big Data activities within CNRS-INSU). Michael Wise (coordinator of the H2020 AENEAS project for the design of the SKA European data center) and Stéphane Requena (Member of the Board of Directors of PRACE and Director of Innovation & Technology at GENCI) were invited to this discussion.

The aim of the meeting was to start brainstorming on possible joint actions by AENEAS and PRACE in the framework of EDI (European Data Infrastructure) and EOSC (European Open Science Cloud), in order to address specific needs of the future SRC through pilot studies undertaken at European level. Existing European Data Infrastructures, such as PRACE, will be integral parts of establishing the research platform necessary to support SKA science. GENCI consortium, which represents France in the European PRACE infrastructure, is interested to play an active role in setting up this European cooperation.

## Announcements

### “Shared Sky” exhibition at ESOF 2018

“Shared Sky” is the Square Kilometre Array’s (SKA) indigenous art & astronomy exhibition bringing together works of art from the Australian and South African indigenous peoples living near the SKA telescopes sites, and inspired by their stories and legends of the night sky. Shared Sky is a travelling exhibition and was already displayed in various places around the world, including Perth (Australia), Cape Town (South Africa), Manchester (UK), Genoa (Italy). It is to be noted that two work arts from Shared Sky were also used for the cover image of the French SKA White Book recently published.



*John Curtin Gallery (Perth) at the opening of the first Shared Sky Exhibition (image courtesy: SKAO)*

The SKA Organisation and SKA-France have jointly applied to bring the exhibition to the biennial EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF), the largest interdisciplinary science policy meeting in Europe, whose 8th edition will take place this year in Toulouse (July 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2018). We are happy to announce that we have just received a positive answer and that Shared Sky will be part of the “Science in the City festival”, an event that will be part of ESOF and dedicated to the general public. More information will follow in the next months.

## Conference “Rise and shine: galaxies in the epoch of reionization”

18-22 June 2018, Palais Universitaire, Strasbourg, France

In the past decade, important progress has been made in the study of the dawn of galaxies and the epoch of reionization, thanks to space observatories, mm/submm facilities and 21cm experiments. With the upcoming launch of JWST and the construction of further 21cm interferometers, the community is eagerly expecting a wealth of new data which is bound to revolutionise our understanding of the first billion years of the Universe and the infancy of galaxies.

The goal of this meeting is to bring together a wide community of observers and theorists to discuss recent progress and challenges, as well as future perspectives for reionization and high-redshift studies. The key topics to be explored at this meeting include:

- \* First stars and first galaxies
- \* High redshift star formation and feedback
- \* Cosmic reionization of Hydrogen
- \* Numerical simulations of galaxy formation and reionization
- \* Current 21cm experiments
- \* Quasars at  $z > 6$

Conference website: <http://rands2018.u-strasbg.fr/index.html>

Important deadlines:

End of abstract submission: 20th February 2018 (abstracts before the deadline will be given priority)

End of early registration: 31st March 2018

End of registration: 1st June 2018

SOC: H. Atek (IAP), D. Aubert (Obs. Strasbourg), J. Blaizot (Obs. Lyon), R. Bouwens (Leiden University), B. Ciardi (Max-Planck Institute for Astrophysics), P. Dayal (Kapteyn astronomical institute), M. Haehnelt (Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge), G. Mellema (Stockholm Universitet), P. Ocvirk (Obs. Strasbourg), J. Pritchard (Imperial College), D. Schaerer (Obs. Geneva), B. Semelin (Obs. Paris), J. Wise (Georgia Institute of Technology).

## CNRS thematic school “ResCom”

18-22 June 2018, Centre I.G.E.S.A., Porquerolles, France

The themes of ResCom School 2018 (“Apprentissage et fouille de données sur les réseaux”) are Data Science, Network Science and Machine Learning.

The school, which will mostly focus on data mining and learning methods and is co-organised by the CNRS research groups [GDR MaDICS](#) and [GDR RSD](#), is motivated by a strong need in the French community to build on these critical and rapidly evolving areas of expertise that span several scientific domains. The topics are of course of great interest for the SKA preparation.

School website: <https://project.inria.fr/rescom2018/>

Inscriptions will open in February. If you are interested, check regularly the school web-page since the number of participants will be limited.

## Maison SKA-France: signature of the protocol on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

We are happy to announce that, on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, five academic and six industrial partners will sign the protocol of intent of the “Maison SKA France”, the new structure towards which the SKA France coordination is evolving.

All information in the next SKA-France monthly bulletin!

*Chiara Ferrari*  
for the SKA-France coordination