

# SKA-France

Monthly bulletin

June 2018

## SKA-France

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## News from Maison SKA-France

### Face-to-Face meeting of the SKA StratCom in Paris

The last face-to-face meeting of the SKA “Strategy And Business Development Committee” (StratCom) was hosted by Paris Observatory on June 5 and 6, 2018, with local support of M. Pérault (Scientific Delegate at CNRS/INSU and member of the Maison SKA-France Board).

As extensively described at the [SKAO web-page](#), the StratCom, chaired by Daan du Toit (Dept of Science and Technology, ZA), has been set in place to assist the SKA Board in the transition phase from the SKA Organisation to an Inter-Governmental Organisation (IGO), with particular attention to the finalisation of the development of a Key Document Set.



*Participants in the StratCom meeting at Paris Observatory*



### Spain joins SKAO

On June 19, 2018, the SKA Organisation and the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation & Universities Organisation announced that the SKA Board had approved the application for membership submitted by the Spanish Government, bringing to eleven the number of current members of the Organisation.

The Spanish participation in the SKA has been led by the Institute of Astrophysics of Andalusia (IAA) of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), under the coordination of Dr. Lourdes Verdes-Montenegro.

The team of Maison SKA-France warmly congratulates the Spanish colleagues for this major achievement!

## Activities

### Participation to the SKA Swiss Days 2018

The third Swiss SKA Days took place on **June 11 and 12, 2018**, at the Institute for Data Science FHNW, near Zurich. Switzerland has currently an observer position in the SKA project and is considering from 2021 on a participation as a SKA member. The SKA Days 2018 were aimed to present SKA interest in the project and, for the first time in Switzerland, to invite interested Swiss companies to discuss potential involvement in the construction of the observatory.

An informal discussion between national organisations involved in SKA within Europe, the chair of the SKA Board and representatives of SKAO was also organised during the meeting, in order to foster useful exchanges between European countries about their scientific and technological interests related to the SKA project.

The Maison SKA-France (MSF) Director was invited to present current SKA-related scientific and technological developments in France. The presentation raised a strong interest in the MSF model of Private-Public-Partnership.

### Updates on the HPC and signal processing collaboration between Paris Observatory and Bull/ATOS

As extensively described in previous SKA-France monthly bulletins, N. Monnier (INSA, Rennes) has started a 6 months internship in February 2018, which is financed by Bull/ATOS with collaborators both from research laboratories (GEPI, IETR, LERMA) and from private companies (Bull/ATOS and DDN). Under the joint supervision of J.-F. Nezan (INSA, Rennes) and E. Raffin (Bull/ATOS), N. Monnier is working on the optimisation of the DDFacet code by C. Tasse (Observatoire de Paris) on computing infrastructures of the Bull/ATOS company.

A **face-to-face meeting** was organised with **M. Caillat** and **C. Tasse** in **June 2018** at **Paris Observatory**, which allowed to assess current progresses on the project, including results and prospects about: a) two different parallelisation models that are being tested (MPI and “concurrent.futures”), b) architectural surveys and c) tests on I/O management.

## Announcements

### Communications from SKAO

In his last e-mails to the members of the SKA Science Working Groups, R. Braun (SKA Science Director) sent the following information to the community:

- \* if you are planning to attend the IAU General Assembly in Vienna (20 - 31 August) then please contact the SKA Comms Team. They are coordinating SKA-related activities at the event and are welcoming SWG members to assist at the SKA booth
- \* due to logistics reasons (on-going finalisation works of the new SKA Headquarters in Jodrell Bank) the next SKA Science Meeting and KSP Workshop, previously announced to be expected in September 2018, will take place on 8 - 12 April 2019. The meeting web site should go live in mid-July.

## The Future of High-Resolution Radio Interferometry in Space

5-6 September 2018, Noordwijk, The Netherlands

The main goal of this workshop is to identify the science case for a next generation space radio interferometry mission. Such a mission should offer unique opportunities for studies of extreme physical phenomena with unprecedented image resolution and quality. Recent technological and scientific advances as well as the upcoming US decadal review and mission opportunities elsewhere bring space interferometers back in the focus. The workshop will discuss the science case for the next generation radio interferometers in space, particularly at long baseline.

All avenues of space VLBI will be considered, up to and including THz frequencies, and eventual large-scale fully space-based VLBI arrays. Also, the overlap with shorter space-space baselines will be considered, as they may be realised with comparable technology. This first meeting in Europe will emphasise the science goals and science requirements to be followed by a second workshop in the US, which will emphasise technical solutions for the science cases. The workshop will consist of invited and contributed talks and provide ample room for discussions and interactions.

Contact: [SVLBI2018@astro.ru.nl](mailto:SVLBI2018@astro.ru.nl)

Workshop website: <https://www.ru.nl/astrophysics/news-agenda/space-vlbi-workshop/>

Abstract Deadline: August 3, 2018

## 14<sup>th</sup> EVN Symposium & Users Meeting

8-11 October 2018, Granada, Spain

The 14th edition of the European VLBI Network (EVN) symposium and Users Meeting will be hosted by the Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía-CSIC in Granada (Spain). The meeting is intended to be a forum for discussion of the latest Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) scientific results and technological developments within the EVN member countries. Topics of interest include powerful AGN science, starburst galaxies, extragalactic masers and supernovae, stellar evolution and stellar masers, transient sources and pulsars, astrometric, geodetic & space applications, VLBI technological developments, current and future facilities and international cooperation - with particular emphasis on very high sensitivity VLBI with the SKA and future multi-wavelength and multi-messenger astronomy including high angular-resolution astronomy at other wavelengths. The meeting will also provide a chance for user input into the EVN Science Vision that is currently being developed.

Additionally, a CASA-VLBI tutorial, organised by JIVE (Joint Institute for VLBI ERIC), will be held in the afternoon of October 11.

Workshop website: <http://evnsymp2018.iaa.es>

Registration Deadline: August 1, 2018

*Chiara Ferrari*  
for the **Maison SKA-France**