

SKA-France

Monthly bulletin

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News from Maison SKA-France

Second SKA-France Day



After the success of the [first SKA-France Day](#) on October 16, 2017, the **Maison SKA-France (MSF)** is **organising a second meeting** to present the results and progresses achieved during the last year, the status of the SKA project, as well as the next steps in the SKA preparation work at national and international level. These include the [next SKA science meeting](#) (April 8-12, 2019, SKA Headquarters), a very important step in the advancement of the definition of future SKA Key Science Projects.

The second SKA-France Day will be held in **Paris on November 23, 2018**. The final program will be communicated to the SKA-France mailing list shortly. [Registration](#), which is free but compulsory for logistic questions, **will be closed on November 12, 2018**.

We invite the French community to present ideas and advancements. The program will therefore include invited talks, but also slots for contributed presentations.

We invite you to send a title and abstract (15 lines max) of your contribution to chiara.ferrari@oca.eu by **October 15, 2018** (subject of the message: "Presentation Day SKA-France 2018").

Looking forward to seeing you in Paris!



Critical Design Reviews advancements

After the successful completion of the Critical Design Review (CDR) of the Telescope Manager Consortium, several Consortia have now finished the pre-CDR and are entering in the crucial final meeting phases. Panels of expert reviewers and observers are organised by SKAO to evaluate the maturity of the accomplished work.

The French community is involved in this important step of the project, with the participation of two researchers as reviewers of CSP (Central Signal Processor; A. Baudry, LAB) and LFAA (Low-Frequency Aperture Array; C. Ferrari, OCA), and two as observers of SDP (Science Data Processor; C. Perez, INRIA & C. Tasse, Obs. Paris).

Activities

First meeting of the Working Group on MSF Business Model

One of the main missions that the MSF has decided to undertake thanks to its private and public stakeholders is to **elaborate and provide a sustainable financial scenario for the French participation to the SKA**. A specific working group has been put together with scientific, technology, legal and financial experts from the 12 organisations members of MSF.

These experts work on the definition of an innovative business model, which integrates costs during the whole life of the telescope, from design to decommissioning, through R&D, CAPEX and OPEX. The aim is to produce a new financial perspective that takes into account all possible parameters, including IP rules, procurement policy, tenders evaluation, attribution and contractualisation.

The first meeting of the working group took place in Paris on September, 24, 2018. This work is intended to produce a first draft of the MSF Business Plan by the end of 2018, which will be addressed to French SKA stakeholders.

Announcements

Awards on SKA-related work



Virginie Ollier, PhD student working in the SATIE department of ENS Paris-Saclay, is the **contest winner of the 3MT EURASIP** (3 Minute Thesis of the European Association for Signal Processing) for her work «**Advanced signal processing techniques for calibration of the new generation of radio interferometers**», delivered during the 26th European Signal Processing conference (EUSIPCO) in Rome, Italy September 3-7, 2018.

This important achievement follows the award she got for Master Internship, delivered by Ecole Centrale de Marseille in 2015, and the STIC Doctoral School PhD Student Award for the Best Scientific Contribution Award for the paper V. Ollier, M. N. El Korso, R. Boyer, P. Larzabal and M. Pesavento, « Robust Calibration of Radio Interferometers in Non-Gaussian Environment » (IEEE TSP, Vol. 65, Iss. 21, Nov. 2017, pp. 5649-5660).

Congratulations to Virginie! (image courtesy: Univ. Paris-Saclay)

Meeting of GdR ISIS “Radioastronomy in the perspective of the SKA”

27 November 2018, Institut d’Astrophysique de Paris (IAP), Paris, France

The Research Group ISIS (Information, Signal, Image & ViSion) organises a workshop to present current developments in radioastronomy and to discuss perspectives in this field. The targeted themes concern the entire processing chain from the point of view of algorithmic developments and architectures of the computing system. The meeting will start with a review talk of C. Ferrari about the SKA and the Maison SKA-France.

Conference website: <http://gdr-isis.fr/index.php?page=reunion&idreunion=375>

Organisers of the meeting:

- * [André Ferrari](#), Université Côte d’Azur
- * [Jean-François Nezan](#), Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Rennes
- * [Rémy Boyer](#), Université Paris-Sud

The Metre Wavelength Sky - II

18-22 March 2019, National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, Pune, India

The conference “Metre Wavelength Sky - II” will celebrate the 90th year of Govind Swarup and the first year of the upgraded GMRT.

Regular scientific talks and posters about current results based on low-frequency radio astronomical observations will be presented over four days (18, 19, 20 and 22 March). On March 21, interested participants are welcome to join the morning celebrations of the festival of colours (“Holi”), followed by a half-day conference session about the upgraded GMRT and the contributions of Govind Swarup to the field of low-frequency radio astronomy.

Conference website: <http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in/mwsky2>

Important dates before the meeting:

- * November 15, 2018: Abstract submission closes
- * January 15, 2019: Registration closes

SKA-France in the news



Two interviews of the SKA-France Director about the SKA project have been published in the September-October 2018 issue of the French magazine “*Ciel & espace*”.

The first interview follows the announcement of CNRS joining the SKA Organisation on behalf of Maison SKA France (MSF) and provides an overview of current activities of the French community in the design phase of the SKA. C. Ferrari gives also some insights on the on-going process lead by the SKA Organisation towards the creation of an Intergovernmental Organisation leading the future SKA Observatory.

In the second interview, the SKA computing and networking requirements are presented in a reportage about Big Data prospects in future astronomical facilities.

Next SKA international science meeting: recap of important upcoming deadlines

Conference website: <https://indico.skatelescope.org/event/467>

Important dates before the meeting:

- * October 26, 2018: Registration and abstract submission deadline
- * December 7, 2018: Talk/poster decisions from SOC communicated



Chiara Ferrari
for the Maison SKA-France