

SKA-France

Monthly bulletin

December 2016

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News from the SKA-France coordination

New members of the SKA-France team

Michel Caillat (Observatoire de Paris, LERMA Laboratory)

"I am working as a research engineer in software development in a laboratory of the Observatory of Paris. After many years spent at the «Division Informatique de l'Observatoire de Paris», which I ran during four years, I left the central service to join the LERMA Laboratory. At that moment, I was motivated by the opportunity I was given to embark in the ALMA project whose construction began. This opportunity materialised in 2004 by a contract with ESO for participating to the development of the ALMA data model. I assured its implementation and its evolution in the course of successive extensions of the contract, which now reaches the end of its terms. Beyond the exceptional nature of the project, this period of my professional life has been an irreplaceable opportunity to discover the collaborative and geographically distributed work as well as the practice of its tools."

Michel has joined the SKA-France team as Project Assistant. Based on his expertise, he will be in charge of coordinating and organising the HPC activities developed by SKA-France and its industrial and academic collaborators.

Kévin Barriere (CNRS/INSU)

"I recently graduated at the Ecole Centrale Lyon as an engineer. During my last year of studies, I joined the Square Kilometer Array Organisation (SKAO) for a 5 months internship starting on the 1st of February 2016. As Power Engineer Assistant, my main responsibility was the development of a system-wide power consumption simulation of the SKA radio Telescope located in South Africa. This simulation is an important activity, since it validates the SKA power budget allocations."

Kévin has recently joined the CNRS-INSU and in particular the SKA-France coordination for a one year contract starting on the 21st of November 2016. He is currently working in collaboration with the SKAO as Power Engineer Assistant. His main responsibilities will be to handle the power budget, the system-wide power consumption simulation, the power maturity level and the power quality standard of the SKA radio telescope, to be located in South Africa and in Australia.



SKA Board Report and New SKA Trailer

The [Notes from the Chair](#) provides a summary of the last SKA Board meeting, which took place at SKA Headquarters on 24-25 November 2016.

SKA's New Trailer "Discovering The Unknown" has recently won the European Excellence Award in Public Relations in the category Corporate Film & Video. Congratulations for this beautiful achievement! The video is of course available at the [SKA official web page](#).

SKA-France in the SKAO News

The creation and activities of SKA-France are followed with interest by SKAO.



SKA ADVENT CALENDAR 2016
Check out the main highlights of the year!

The SKA's Advent Calendar 2016 invites you to explore some of the main milestones of this year for the SKA project in the lead up to Christmas.
Come back daily to check as new highlights become available!

STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE SKA IN FRANCE
The SKA-France coordination was set up in August by the Institute for Earth Sciences and Astronomy (CNRS/INSU), Paris Observatory, Côte d'Azur Observatory, Bordeaux University and Orléans University. SKA-France has the specific responsibility to prepare and coordinate the French contributions to the international SKA Project.

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BACK TO CALENDAR

Observatoire de la CÔTE d'AZUR, l'Observatoire de Paris, CNRS, université de BORDEAUX, UNIVERSITÉ D'ORLÉANS

They were announced on [Day 2](#) of the SKA “2016 Advent Calendar”.

A complete summary of the SKA-France initiatives from July to December 2016 is also included in the December edition of the [SKA eNewsletter](#), in the section “[News from Observer Countries](#)”.

The [PDF version](#) of the SKA eNews is also available on line.

Support letters from French industrial partners

The SKA-France coordination has received important support letters from French industrial partners. The letters are available for download at the [SKA-France web page](#) and by clicking on their names in the list below:

- * [Airbus Safran Launchers](#)
- * [ATOS/Bull](#)
- * [Callisto](#)
- * [DDN Storage \(CEO\) & DDN Storage \(Head of Global Sales, Marketing and Field Services\)](#)
- * [ENGIE](#)
- * [FEDD](#)
- * [NVIDIA](#)

As already announced in the October Bulletin, all other expressions of interest from companies and research laboratories that become available are published on-line at the SKA-France web page (at the “Documents on-line” link).

AIRBUS SAFRAN
LAUNCHERS

Bull
atos technologies

Callisto

DDN
STORAGE

ENGIE

FEDD
FABRICANT DE CARTES
ET PRODUITS
ÉLECTRONIQUES PROFESSIONNELS

NVIDIA

Activities

Seminars of the SKA-France coordinator

The SKA-France coordinator has been invited by several French institutes to **present the SKA project, as well as the SKA-France coordination**, its structure, activities and role in preparing the positioning of French contributions within the project before the construction phase. The following seminars have already taken place or are planned; they are generally followed by lively discussions with researchers of the host laboratory:

- * Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Marseille (LAM) - 14/10/2016
- * Institut de Recherche en Astrophysique et Planétologie (IRAP) - 08/12/2016
- * Astrophysique Instrumentation Modélisation (AIM) - 13/12/2016
- * Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur (OCA) - 17/01/2017
- * Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Bordeaux (LAB) - 23/01/2017

Other institutes that are interested by this initiative are strongly encouraged to contact the [SKA-France coordinator](#).

Third SKA-Energy Workshop

The **third SKA-France Energy meeting** was held on November 28, 2016 at CNRS headquarter (Paris). The objectif of the meeting was to discuss further about the request for information (RFI) published by SKAO to provide the energy supply system and storage capacity for SKA South Africa. We remind here that all companies interested in the call can contact the French Industry Liaison, [Gabriel Marquette](#), for more information.

The second part of the meeting included a general brainstorming of all participants, from industry and research laboratories, to start a collaborative project aiming at lowering energy consumption and optimising energy production resources for both phase 1 and 2 of the SKA project.

Announcements

Next HPC meetings

After the successful [first Signal Processing meeting](#), the SKA-France coordination is organising a working session for French researchers developing new algorithms for radio interferometry. Colleagues who are not yet in touch with us, but that are interested to participate, can contact [the SKA-France Project Assistant](#). The workshop will take place at Côte d'Azur Observatory in February (date to be defined).

The SKA-France coordination has been invited by DDN Storage to participate to the third edition of the Per3S (Performance and Scalability of Storage Systems), a workshop targeting I/O and storage for the Exascale era, which will take place at DDN Storage in Meudon-la-Forêt on January 30, 2017. For more information about the meeting, please visit the [conference web page](#).



*Season's
Greetings*



Chiara Ferrari
for the SKA-France coordination