

SKA-France

Monthly bulletin

September 2017

SKA-France

News from the SKA-France coordination

Page 1

Activities

Visit of SKA-France and Ariane Group to SKA Headquarters

SKA-France HPC and Data Management Meeting

Page 2

Announcements

J.-P. Vilotte nominated member of the AENEAS External Advisory committee
HPC meeting

Page 3

News from the SKA-France coordination

SKA-France Day

We are pleased to announce that the **first SKA-France Day** will take place on **October 16, 2017**, in the Jaurès amphitheater of the ENS, 29 rue d'Ulm (Paris).

During this event, the SKA-France coordination will present to the representatives of the ministries, organisations and institutions, to industrial partners and to the scientific community:

- * the **French SKA White Book**, which brings together the contributions of more than 200 researchers and industrial experts, and presents the perspectives of the French scientific and technological community for the SKA project
- * the **“Maison SKA France”**, which will bring together academic and industrial players to organise their joint participation to the preparatory work towards the SKA

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 **October 9, 2017**.

Letter of support from Air Liquide

The SKA-France coordination received at the beginning of September 2017 another very important **support letter**.

Air Liquide, a worldwide known company in gases, technologies and services for industry and health, has expressed its strong interest in developing renewable energetic solutions to face the cooling and energetics needs of the SKA in a fully innovative way.



SC17 conference

As announced at the [SKA Organisation web page](#), Prof. Philip Diamond (SKAO Director General), and Dr. Rosie Bolton (SKA Regional Centre Project Scientist), will be the co-keynote speakers at SC17, the International Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage and Analysis that will be held in Denver (November 12-17, 2017).

This is the most important supercomputing conference in the world, an event taking place every year.

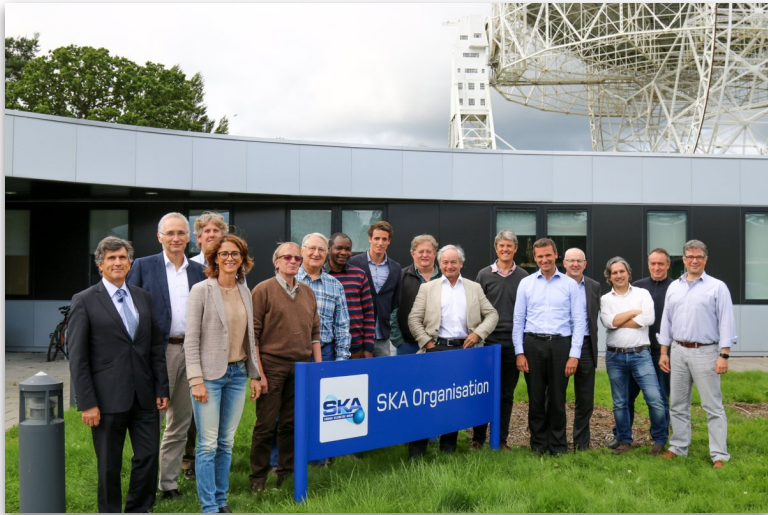
As stated by the SC17 General Chair (Bernd Mohr, from Juelich Supercomputing Centre): “The SKA is one of the largest scientific endeavours in history, incorporating a global science project of unprecedented size and scale and a prime example of our conference’s HPC connects theme.”

Activities

Visit of SKA-France and Ariane Group to SKA Headquarters

On September 12, 2017, the SKA-France coordination and French representatives of Ariane Group were hosted at the SKA Headquarters to exchange ideas & best practice in large projects.

Five engineers and managers of Ariane Group joined and gave presentations about lessons learned from big projects and of interest for the SKA.



Some of the participants to the discussions of September 12, 2017, in Jodrell Bank.

SKA-France HPC and Data Management Meeting

Participants to the HPC-related meeting hosted by Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur (Nice) on September 19, 2017



On September 19, 2017, SKA-France organised a meeting with the French companies interested to discuss about how to face and be prepared to the future High Performance Computing and Data Managing SKA challenges.

Since several months SKA-France is coordinating a collaboration between Bull-ATOS and French researchers working on algorithm developments, with the main aim of optimising the hardware architectures and the parallelisation of the codes conceived by the scientists.

Our objective is now to make a step forward and have a more coordinated approach also between all the French companies interested in the whole chain between the signal acquisition and validation, the image processing phase and the data storage. Representatives of Bull-ATOS, DDN Storage and Thales Alenia Space participated to the meeting.

Announcements

J.-P. Vilotte nominated member of the AENEAS External Advisory committee

Jean-Pierre Vilotte, coordinator of HPC activities within CNRS-INSU, is one of the members of the **External Advisory committee of AENEAS**, the H2020 project that, in the next three years, will conceive and design the structure, content and organisation of the future European SKA Regional Data Centre.

Jean-Pierre has been nominated together with Ian Bird (LHC Computing Grid Project Leader at CERN) and Martin Zwaan (Head of the ALMA Regional Centre at ESO).



Prof. Jean-Pierre Vilotte

High Performance Computing in Astronomy and Astrophysics

A Special session on High Performance Computing in Astronomy and Astrophysics will be hosted by the 26th EuroMicro International Conference on Parallel, Distributed, and Network-Based Processing (PDP 2018) held in Cambridge, UK, from March 21 to March 23, 2018.

The exponential increase in the amount of data that will be gathered by future experiments such as SKA, LSST, CTA is one of the most serious challenges that will be addressed in the conference.

Prospective authors should submit a full paper not exceeding 8 pages in the Conference proceedings format to the conference main track or to Special Sessions through the EasyChair conference submission system, with an indication of the name of the Special Session.

Important dates:

- * Paper submission: 13th October 2017 (extended with respect to the website)
- * Acceptance notification: 20th November 2017
- * Camera ready due: 9th January 2018
- * Conference: 21th - 23th Mar 2018

SKA-France in the news



An interview of the SKA-France coordinator about the SKA project and SKA-France activities has been published in the September issue of the French magazine “Ciel & espace”.

The interview is inserted within a reportage concerning the beginning of operations of MeerKAT, the South African SKA precursor telescope.

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for the SKA-France coordination