

SWG Chairs Telecon 19-May-2020

Notes: Anna Bonaldi

Participants: SWGs: Valentina Vacca, Phil Edwards, Jason Hessels, Mark Sargent, George Heald, Adriano Ingallinera, Fernando Camilo, Izsaskun Jimenez-Serra, Natasha Hurley-Walker, Eduard Kontar, Stefano Camera, Andrei Mesinger, Alvis Raccanelli, Tao An, Cormac Reynolds, Abhirup Datta, Paolo Serra, Willem van Straten, Sebastien Muller, Francoise Combes, Andrea Possenti (representing the SKA Regional Centre Steering Committee)

Apologies: Divya Oberoi, Laura Wolz, Sarah Blyth, Doug Johnstone

SKAO: Robert Braun, Jeff Wagg, Tyler Bourke, Anna Bonaldi, Philippa Hartley, Rosie Bolton, Evan Keane

Construction proposal (Robert): the SKA construction proposal contains a science motivation that has been drafted using the content of the SWG banners as a starting point. We will circulate this soon to the SWG chairs for comments and improvements, to check that the information is up to date and accurate. The final proposal will be submitted to the Board and CPTF in September.

SKA regional centres development work (Rosie, Andrea): The SRC steering committee has released a white paper describing the scope of the network of SKA regional centres. The remaining development work has been distributed amongst several working groups (WGs). WG6 is "Science User Engagement", chaired by Andrea Possenti and Hans-Rainer Kloeckner, needs the help of the SWGs. Data management representatives of each SWG were identified some time ago and they will now form a consultation team. We now need to check that the list is still up-to-date and complete it with the missing SWGs, ideally in a few weeks, in time for the first meeting of the consultation group that's scheduled in a month. Representatives will liaise with the SWG they represent to provide use cases and derive science requirements for the SRCs. More info on Andrea's slides.

Jason: Does the white paper already contain science requirements for the SRCs?

Andrea: the white paper is mostly about governance. The science requirements and science cases will be used for an L1 requirement document

Tyler: Are the representatives aware of their role and the timescale?

Rosie: This is the first time the exact timeline has been shared, so it is the opportunity for the representatives to confirm whether they are happy with the assignment.

Valentina: How much time is a representative expected to dedicate?

Andrea: It depends on the working group, however the representative should rely on the SWG members for putting together the use cases.

Mark: We might need further clarity on the SDP/SRC boundary to prepare the use cases

Andrea: This information will be written up in what we hope will be a clear and complete way.

Natasha: Would it be possible to be informed more in advance about future community feedback activities the SWGs are asked to undertake?

Robert: We will provide as much notice as possible for any upcoming consultations.

SKA 2021 science conference (Anna): the SOC of the conference met yesterday and we agreed the next SKA science meeting should go fully virtual. We will work out the details of how this is going to be implemented and circulate more information as soon as available.

Jason: this will give an opportunity to expand the number of participants, due to reduce costs for participating

Paolo: we just had a very successful HI virtual meeting, with 150 participants which was more than what we ever managed for a physical meeting.

Francoise: could it be spread in 2 weeks to reduce session length and optimise times for a world-wide participation?

Robert: this is a good suggestion which we will consider

Round-table SWG updates

Transients (Jason): Our community is very excited by the recent detection of a MJy Galactic magnetar detected by CHIME and followed up by other instruments. It could be the missing link between pulsars and FRBs.

Continuum (Mark): Our SWG gained members recently, especially in the AGN modelling area.

CD/EoR (Abhirup, Andrei): in India a lot of young researchers are joining the group, this could also be the result of successful events we have organised locally. Work proceeds with precursors/pathfinders. Upper limits for EoR detections are going down in recently published work and can now begin to constrain theoretical models.

Our Galaxy (Adriano): Our group has also gained more members, and we are planning to structure it into sub-groups to make it more efficient.

HI (Paolo): A very good PHISCC meeting was held last week. Highlights include high resolution MeerKAT observations and a $z=1$ HI detection achieved with GMRT stacking. Good progress with data analysis pipelines was reported as well.

MeerKAT (Fernando): DDT for MeerKAT available if you have suggestions.

VLBI (Tao): We have just published a paper on the capabilities of SKA as part of a VLBI network.

GW (Alvise): Our group is gaining members, particularly from CERN interested in the cross-correlation between SKA and LISA. We will soon publish a paper and release a code (a modification of CLASS) to study LSS and GW, which will be a good tool for some of the SWG preparation work we are planning.

Cosmology (Stefano): Our SWG has tried telecons every 2 months using alternate time slots suited to different time zones and it improves SWG engagement. We also have a dedicated slack channel. We are now launching an SWG-wide project, to estimate the full covariance matrix for SKA Cosmological parameter estimation.

Solar Physics (Eduard): Reported on a good experience at a recent virtual meeting that would normally be held in Vienna.

Magnetism (George/Valentina): a paper on a RM catalogue from MWA has just been accepted. We are considering a slack channel for the SWG but would like a common space for all SWGs

Cradle of life (Izaskun): A common slack channel and a common repository of useful documents/material would be good to have. Our SWG is selecting a new o-chair. We are publishing papers on interesting molecules observations in the Galaxy observed with spectroscopic surveys.

Pulsars (Willem): Most of the activity is on pathfinder observations, especially within the MeerTime project using MeerKAT. Also working on the commissioning of the MeerKAT UHF receivers.