

Agenda: 14 June 2016, 1400 – 1500 UTC

Notes: Evan Keane

To start off RB welcomed Hiroyuki Nakanishi to SKA0, secondee from Japan working at SKA0 for next few months.

1) SKA simulations in casa (Robert)

RB: have put simulations for assessing science performance previously done in Miriad, now in CASA. Can provide config files and scripts etc. if anybody interested in working on things. Wasn't done from scratch – starting point from Anna Scaife (SDP). We will also post these on the science portal of the SKA website.

MS: what type of simulations?

RB: simulated images. Can read in your own FITS file of any object and apply current SKA1-Mid and SKA1-Low configurations, hour angle sampling, tapering functions etc. Can do useful images on your laptop (with judicious sampling choices) in minutes, rather than days. Will expand with extra features soon.

MR: does this include a reasonable estimate of the noise properties?

RB: not yet, but this plus other calibration issues can be added. Not trying to create an end to end simulation with our limited resources.

MS: can we just download this?

RB: files and scripts will be on the website. Any ideas for what else we should be looking at? Note that this is not re-doing 'full blown' simulations being done in Oxford or in O. Smirnov's group in South Africa

2) SKA – Athena Synergy White Paper Update (Robert)

RB: a couple of SWG representatives – Rob Fender and Rosella Cassano – working on this in the next few months. Plan is to have a few workshops in the Autumn and aim to have a short white paper on the SKA-ATHENA synergies written by the end of the year. You will have the opportunity (~tens of people) to participate in these workshops.

3) SKA1-Low Configuration ECP (Jeff)

JW: we have a configuration "V5" – culmination of months/years of work by many people, some people on telecon involved in those. 512 stations, ~35m in diameter each. ~44% of collecting area within 1km radius, 57% within 1.7km radius. CRB membership is being filled. Hope that it progresses quickly for upcoming Level 1 requirements issues.

JP: who leads the CRB?

JW: the proposed leader hasn't agreed yet, hopefully soon.

4) Other ECPs in assessment (All)

EK: Recently there was an ECP to reduce the Band 5 PST beams from 16 to 8 as this is a cost driver for the beam former. This has been accepted and should be in the next L1 issue. There are also several ECPs which are in the "custom experiment" category. Currently there is "Custom Experiment Policy" in preparation by Gary Davis.

RB: this should be done by the end of July.

EK: This was precipitated by a cosmic ray ECP to place particle detectors on site. As there is no policy for what the SKA does/ supports for outside instruments this policy is being formed, and in the mean time ECPs of this type are on hold for a month. There are two other ECPs in this category, both SETI ones from the CoL SWG. There are a whole bunch of other ECPs under various stages of review (~25 in total) but many are procedural but some may be of interest, e.g. solar power for remote stations of LOW. Link to ECP register to be found here: <http://astronomers.skatelescope.org/documents/>

JP: what was the decision of the outrigger ECP150021?

JW: please ask the originator as not sure if he's seen the outcome yet.

5) Upcoming EWASS SKA session and Goa Science Meeting (Jeff)

JW: For EWASS, everyone who should be is now registered. All good. For Goa we have had the pre-registration so have an indication of how many early career researchers were thinking of going so that we could work out an appropriate reduced registration, and whether there was interest in a GMRT tour. Will probably do that on the following Monday. Should also be able to book hotel rooms in the next ~week. We have ~130 rooms reserved in the conference venue. Most other hotels are ~15 mins to ~1 hour away from main venue. If you book from the Sunday before meeting to Saturday after meeting you will get a reduced rate, although this will only apply to the first 80 rooms that are booked. Information on this will be sent in the next few days. Abstract submissions also open in next few days, and deadline for that end of July, and to let people know if they are speaking in August. Also posters. Of course last 2 days will be KSP breakouts and we will have 9 meeting rooms for that.

MR: how big are the breakout rooms?

RB: most range from 20-people to 50-people and one is the main meeting room itself.

JW: expecting something in the range of 150 to 250 people in total.

6) AOB

MR: Would be good to update people on schedule for system budget and calibration work

RB: Yes. Schedules important. In particular the L1 releases are as follows: L1v8 June 30th; L1v9 Sep 5th; L1v10 Dec 6th. L1v10 will be the final version where the L1s are frozen. Error budgets also important as part of this work to freeze the system design. First version of these budgets in L1v9 and final version in L1v10. Budgets are to ensure that cross-element issues are accounted for. Done reasonably well at L0 and L1, but flow-down to sub-elements hasn't been done very well. Recall in March the scientific error budget document was distributed to the SWG chairs - this was beginning of this. We need help with this if you are interested - please volunteer. More broadly in terms of schedule, been trying to solidify element CDRs, and then the system level CDR, construction proposal etc.

MR: do you want to say anything about the IGO?

RB: there will be another meeting in September and that is intended to be the final meeting. If all goes well the text of the convention will be approved then, with a ministerial signing ceremony possibly in December. Then it goes to the various member country parliaments to be ratified - estimates are 12-18 months for that phase. Minimum number for the IGO to come into effect is 5 countries: 3 host countries (AU, ZA, UK) + 2 others. More countries needed for construction to proceed. Going remarkably well. Not many issues remain under debate. Italian colleagues doing a great job running the negotiations. IGO work groups continue to iron things out; one such meeting happening here at SKAO this week.

RB: Frequency of this meeting? Every 2 months? Monthly?

IS: works for me every second month only.

JP: Monthly makes sense

AP: between now and Goa monthly is good.

ZP: are you all registered for EWASS?

EK: yes!