

SKA SWG Chairs Teleconference  
10 May 2016

1) On-line information/discussion forum (Eduard V.)

Eduard led a discussion on the possibility of centralised on-line discussion forums, perhaps one for each SWG and one for the chairs, visible to all SWG members (TBD).

Some SWGs already do this through various platforms (wiki, google, and emails). Having them centralised will allow them to be archived by SKA and allow for a smoother transition when SWG chairs rotate. It will also allow for access from all member countries (e.g. China).

[ACTION] SKAO science team will consult with our IT team on possibilities.

2) Possible SKA - Athena Synergy White Paper (Robert)

The possibility was discussed of setting up a small working group of interested people to look into Athena-SKA synergies and produce a white paper. Athena will be an ESA X-ray imaging mission (<http://www.the-athena-x-ray-observatory.eu/>) along the lines of XMM (and in some ways, Chandra), but with much higher sensitivity and spectral resolution, so there are many interesting applications. (A list of their SWGs gives a flavor of the broad range of science that is possible.)

[ACTION] Robert asked for people interested in being involved in this WG to contact him.

3) SKA1-Low Configuration (Jeff/Robert)

Jeff reported that a number of calibration/configuration workshops for LOW have been undertaken, with input from a number of SWGs (primarily EoR, Pulsars, Continuum), and described the activities in those workshops. The configuration for LOW (station locations) is now essentially completed, and a document describing this work is in preparation. It will be circulated when it is signed off within the office. The actual station locations will be made available via the SKA astronomers web page (co-ordinates, and CASA format).

As part of the discussion Robert showed some imaging simulations, comparing MID and LOW to VLA and LOFAR-international, resp. These can be viewed at this link:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/9ymevsuorj9txz/SKA\\_Image\\_Quality.pptx?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/9ymevsuorj9txz/SKA_Image_Quality.pptx?dl=0)

Virtual sub-stations will also be possible with the adopted LOW configuration, allowing for shorter baselines but with less bandwidth. Instead of the 512 actual stations with 300 MHz, it will be possible to have 1024 virtual substations with bandwidth 75 MHz (factor 4 less than maximum), or 2048 virtual substations with 18.75 MHz bandwidth.

#### 4) SDP delta-PDR outcome (Jeff)

Jeff briefly discussed the outcomes of the SDP delta-Preliminary Design Review. We are awaiting the final report from the review panel. SDP have made significant progress since their PDR one year ago and the panel were pleased with their work. From a science aspect there are no major design concerns at present.

#### 5) Upcoming SKA Meetings (Jeff)

EWASS is settled and all speakers are in place.

SKA2016 in Goa is moving forward. About 50 people have pre-registered (note pre-registration is not mandatory, it is primarily an aid for the LOC for planning). The SOC is in place, primarily made up of SWG chairs. Mario Santos asked about accommodation for students/post-docs, as the main hotel rates seem high. There are a number of hotels very close to the meeting venue with lower rates that will be listed on the meeting page, and we may be able to provide shuttle buses from some of those.

The meeting web site is <https://indico.skatelescope.org/event/391/overview>  
A reminder that the meeting is 3 days of science presentations followed by 2 days for KSP breakout discussions.

#### 6) Appointment of new SKA Project Science Team member (Robert)

Anna Bonaldi has been appointed as a new Project Scientist, starting September 1.

#### 7) AOB

a. The SKA Board has initiated a Senior Management Review, part of their ongoing process to review SKAO activities. Robert has asked some SWG chairs to be available for interview by the review panel; they have been contacted individually.

b. Mario Santos asked about the flexibility of the core/associated SWG membership structure. The Terms of Reference for the SWGs can be found on the astronomers page <http://astronomers.skatelescope.org/documents/> (note this page is a little out-of-date, will be refreshed shortly). Cosmology have a large core group that is working in sub-groups on survey “packages”, which can be used by anyone to inform possible KSPs. The coordinators of these packages form a small management team for this aspect of the SWG work. Mario was interested to know if other groups are doing similar work, and whether this arrangement was in conflict with the SWG role. The answer to part two is that it is not in conflict as long as all SWG activities continue to be for the “common good” rather than for the benefit of specific nascent KSP teams.

c. Items for the next telecon should be sent to Robert.