

## **The Square Kilometre Array: A Science Mega-Project in the Making, 1990-2012**

### **About the authors**

*Richard Schilizzi* is a radio astronomer who spent much of his career working with the very-long-baseline interferometry (VLBI) technique particularly in the field of active galactic nuclei. He was actively involved in developing European, global and space VLBI including the establishment of the Joint Institute for VLBI in Europe (JIVE) where he was the inaugural director from 1993 to 2002. He became involved in the SKA in 1999 as an at-large member of the International SKA steering Committee (ISSC), the initial governance entity for the project. In January 2003 he was appointed as the first International SKA Director in January 2003, a position he held until December 2011. In the years following he established an SKA Group in the University of Manchester and eventually took up an Emeritus Professor position at the University in 2018.

*Ronald Ekers* has had an international career involving research and promotion of radio astronomy and radio astronomical techniques. He has worked with some of the largest radio astronomy arrays including Westerbork in the Netherlands, and as director of the VLA in the USA and ATCA in Australia. He is a former president of the International Astronomical Union and has been actively involved in the promotion of international scientific research through the IAU, URSI and OECD. He has been directly involved in the concept of a Square Kilometre Array (SKA) as a global mega science project since its inception. He was member of the URSI LTWG from 1993 to 1999, he helped establish the IAU Working Group for Future Large-Scale Facilities in 1995 and he became the first chair of the International SKA Steering committee when it was established in 2000. He has always been interested in the history and philosophy of science and the role of the research environment in innovation and discovery. He promoted the SKA concept as the continuation of the exponential growth found in many other areas of experimental science and technology. His research interests in astronomy are broad including extragalactic astronomy and cosmology, galactic nuclei (the centres of galaxies), ultra-high energy particle physics and innovative applications of radio astronomical techniques. He is currently a CSIRO fellow and an adjunct Professor at Curtin University in Perth, Australia.

*Peter Dewdney* is a researcher who has crossed back and forth between the science and technical sides of radio astronomy and has been associated with the SKA since the idea began to gel globally. After spending much of his research career at the Canadian National Research Council's Dominion Radio Astronomy Observatory with involvement in a variety of radio telescopes, he moved to the University of Manchester in 2008 to take up the role of Project Engineer for the Preparatory Phase of the SKA (PrepSKA). In 2012 he joined the Square Kilometre Array Organisation for its pre-construction phase, where he became the SKA Architect responsible for the coalescing the design, based on previous work during PrepSKA. Returning to Canada in 2018, he continues to hold the position of SKA Architect, but acting in an advisory role to the engineering staff as the SKA is being constructed.

*Phil Crosby* entered the world of radio astronomy from a career in aerospace, industrial electronics, and radio engineering. He joined the (then) CSIRO Division of Radiophysics in 2006, bringing a business and commercial facet to the ATNF. He was seconded to the SKA Project Development Office (SPDO) in Manchester in 2009 for two years, developing and delivering the SKA industry engagement strategy which laid the foundation for subsequent industry cooperation and participation. Beyond 2011, Phil's support for SKAO has helped shape global procurement and he continues to offer specialist expertise in large scale complex project management.