

SWG co-chairs meeting notes 16 July 2024

Attending:

Co-chairs: Marc Audard, Fatemeh Tabatabaei, Bhal Chadra Joshi, Cath Trott, Ian Harrison, Jacco van Loon, Jack Radcliffe, Jun Yang, Marta Spinelli, Neeraj Gupta, Pietro Zucca, Tessa Vernstrom

SKAO: Wendy Williams, Robert Braun, Anna Bonaldi (notes), Philippa Hartley

Apologies: Catherine Hale, Viviana Casasola

Governance:

Robert: India completed ratification process so now has full membership.

Construction update:

We are now 3 years in the 7-year construction. 31.8% complete, slightly behind schedule and slightly over budget, but mostly due to advance payments. First SKA-Mid dish now lifted onto pedestal and first 2 SKA-Low stations handed over for commissioning.

Meetings:

EAS just happened in Padova, where we had an SKA session.

Wendy: it was a good session although on the Friday which was not ideal. Good interaction at the SKA stand.

Fatemeh: interesting to get updates, very informative.

Coming up soon: IAU GA in Cape town. SKAO session and a very impressive SKAO's new stand.

East Asia SKA workshop in November

ESO-SKA synergy event in Perth in Dec. Still on ESO-SKA synergies, the main outcomes of the workshop we had in Munich in 2023 will appear in a special edition of the ESO messenger in autumn 2024.

Next SKA science meeting in 2025.

Philippa:

Advancing Astrophysics II: preparing for science with the SKAO. Continuity with the title with the science books which are now 10 years old. With the meeting, we will update the science book. Virtual attendance will be supported for all sessions. There will be both parallel and plenary sessions. Science operations will visit each SWG parallel session and provide a tailored "observing with SKA" session. We are trying to identify overlaps and common themes between SWGs so as to organise the splinter rooms, as we have less splinter rooms than SWGs.

constrained by cost and logistics, we can have either 1 full day or 1.5 of parallel sessions, to be held on Thur or Wed morning + Thur. What is your preference?
Marta: Are there possibilities for continued discussions on Wed afternoon?

Philippa: Main theatre will be available that day, I will check if there are rooms besides the main room. Alternatively, we can investigate the splinter venues, as the cost is the same for booking half a day or a full day.

Fatemeh: How will the splinter sessions be distributed within the venues? how long each session?

Philippa: Need to pair SWGs as we have less rooms than SWGs. Ideally those groups would be adjacent or overlapping in their members and themes, so they could all attend the full session.

Robert: Seems that there is interest for more time for parallel sessions, between the two options

Philippa: Observing with SKA sessions ideally scheduled early in the week as they could inform the discussions.

Book: updated version of the existing book. Some chapters may not need many updates, others have evolved more and there could be brand new content. We want to facilitate coordinated chapters update and provide opportunity for researchers not yet involved to contribute and possibly join the SWGs. Content: split into sections each with a broad science theme. Individual chapters aims to be a self-contained description of a science goal, with a main focus on AA4, but also considering AA* and possibly upgrades beyond AA4.

Jack: When will themes be decided?

Philippa: I was hoping to do today, but not finalised. should be before the summer

Jacco: Chapters may not need much update but the previous authors may no longer be involved: How do we access the source files and how do we deal with crediting and using this material?

Robert: We are likely to have the text submissions from last time, for authorship hopefully a suitable number of authors are still involved so that they can take care of /collaborate on the updates.

Ian: AA* focus: is it optional or not? would this be confusing? Some science cases could look worse than others because they show results for AA*

Robert: Main focus on AA4, sensitivity calculators are now available to help authors be clear about the capabilities and distinctions. A review from us should help in making things uniform.

Philippa: Should we be more prescriptive?

Ian: Maybe easier than tidying up afterwards.

Bhal Chadra: Is there a uniform policy for the authorship list? Would this be worth considering?

Robert: Previously we left to the discretion of each SWGs, my own preference is for allowing this freedom again to respect what works best in each case.

Bhal Chadra: What about the conference program?

Robert: Again I would not like to be overly prescriptive, but maybe discuss within SOC.

Marta: Is the focus more on what can be done with planned specs, e.g. using the sensitivity calculator, or also suggest new directions and capabilities?

Robert: Both are important. We are trying to facilitate team preparation for key science project proposal submission, but we also want to inform a Science Roadmap that looks ahead to possible future upgrades.

Philippa: We want to be as inclusive as possible for the science cases. we would like to encourage submission from all members of the community. We are planning 2 phases: 1 - call for chapters proposals advertised within SWG and outside. Suggested deadline for call for proposals: Sep 16th.

For calls from outside, we will ask which SWGs their science is related to, although "none" is an option that can be selected. The SKA office will review those requests so that they can be passed to the relevant SWG chairs to review the content and check for overlaps.

Phase2: actual chapters written and submitted, coordinated by SWG chairs. deadline for drafts January 2025. Talks for conference will be selected from the list of chapters.

Fatameh: Can we already start with phase 1 within the SWG?

Philippa: We encourage to begin the process even now. We will circulate the call we will make to the SWGs to provide a more standard and consistent information.

Marc: Why do you need two phases? I fear the deadline for Phase 1 will be tight given the holiday season

Philippa: 2 phases are needed because we want to ensure that there is not duplication. The chapter proposal is just an abstract, so just a paragraph. Maybe we can call them abstracts instead of proposals, as this name seems to create confusion.

Ian: 16th sept is quite soon, especially considering holidays. a bit more time would be welcome.

Philippa: We can move deadline to end of Sept.

Marta: We would like more info on the procedure to follow with the abstract from outside the SWGs. When there is duplication what happens? Are authors of similar paper supposed to collaborate on a single one?

Philippa: Abstracts from the wider community are sent directly to SKA office, we will collate and send to the relevant SWGs. In cases of significant overlap in

content it would be helpful to encourage (but not necessarily demand) collaboration.

Common wiki for SWGs

Philippa: credential information to access the confluence wiki should have been sent out. Please test and let us know if this is satisfactory.