

SWG co-chairs meeting 2024-05-21

Attendees: Aris Karastergiou, Betsey Adams, Catherine Hale, Cathryn Trott, Fatemeh Tabatabaei, Ian Harrison, Jack Radcliffe, Jason Hessels, Katie Mulrey, Ke Wang, Marc Audard, Neeraj Gupta, Patrick Woudt, Mark Sargent, Tessa Vernstrom, Viviana Casasola, Marta Spinelli

SKAO: Anna Bonaldi, Philippa Hartley

New chair introductions: Catherine Hale, Ian Harrison, Marc Audard, Cath Trott, Ke Wang. Thank you to the exiting co-chairs for your service – we will keep in touch!

[Construction Update \(Anna\)](#)

We had an Observatory Construction update a couple of weeks ago. Please find some of the slides from this in the meeting slide set. AA 0.5 deployment is happening at pace. Some design refinement has been incorporated, to reduce residual risks. Two areas of design refinement: dish pointing (reducing movement under wind load); Low station layout testing with AAVS3 has selected the Low station layout as “perturbed Vogel”.

Jason: How do the specs of the dish refinement compare the existing MeerKAT dishes?

Anna: We will double check the comparison and let you know.

SRC Network update: there is a schedule to deploy SRCNet. Working towards v0.1. Will be used to test all the various aspects of the network. From v0.3, SRCNet will be used to support some science verification activities.

Jason: Is there a commissioning plan to test the SRCNet?

Anna: There is a testing plan to prove the functionalities. If there is interest, Rosie Bolton will be able to share a presentation at an upcoming co-chairs meeting, with more details on the SRCNet plans.

Mark: Could you comment on the improved performance of Dish for Band 6 and 7?

Anna: The modifications have now ensured that the Dish pointing accuracy is compliant with the original specifications. More quantitative results will be available in the next weeks and months.

Mark: If there are updated numbers I would be very grateful if you could share those.

(ANS: Tyler: the “improvement” is simply to bring the dish pointing/tracking back into meeting the requirements under various wind loads, and should be good for frequencies above Band 5 under normal conditions.)

Fatemeh: In principle is there a programme for a timescale for the frequency bands beyond B1, B2, B5?

Anna: Not a set schedule; we will now deploy bands 1 2 and 5. We will seek views of the community to find out which bands are of most interest.

(Tyler: Important to note that there is no funding at present for bands beyond B1,2,5.

Prioritisation of other bands (B3, B4, B6, ...) will be done as part of the SKA Observatory

Development Programme SODP, but will still require member funding to be built and installed)

Marc: What is foreseen in terms of user interface and user support for SRCNet?

Anna: SRCNet will be grateful for community interaction and feedback during this development; a dedicated forum for consultation and testing will be set up. Rosie will be in touch about this soon. It is planned for the time of v0.1. This would cover the aspects previously addressed by SRC WG6 (user engagement) and/or the data processing contacts we had in the SWGs.

[Philippa: next Science meeting update \(SKASci25\).](#)

The meeting will feature an update to our science books, written after the 2014 science meeting. We will invite abstract submission.

Mark: is the book also going to include science cases for possible extensions beyond the AA4 e.g. Band6. Will the sensitivity calculator and other available tools at some point include those options so that we can be quantitative about it?

Philippa: thanks for this question. We would like the community to be able to include their thoughts on possible upgrades. We will check with the science operations team about inclusion of upgrades in the tools. **ANS:** upgrade options won't be part of the sensitivity calculators. Information on performance estimates will be updated in the Science Performance document (was Braun et al 2019, will be updated).

Ian: will the papers also be used by the SKA in any way or are they intended mainly to showcase the science?

Philippa: the papers are primarily to share the science that the full SKA array will be used to do.

[Philippa: SWG Wiki Options](#)

We have been working with our IT department about providing a centralised wiki option for the working group. They have been working on one option based on the Confluence tool. Areas are being set up for the working group and as a first step we will give access to co-chairs so that they can explore it and give us feedback to its suitability for their purposes. As a next step, we would give access to the whole working groups but we were thinking of a two-tiered approach: with edit privileges to the core members and viewing privileges to all members. This is to potentially avoid too many people modifying pages at the same time. This can be reviewed in due course. For the moment, I would encourage the groups to revise their core member list to make sure it includes the most active members. Groups that currently don't have a core groups should consider creating one.

Fatemeh: is there a limit on the number of core members for a group?

Philippa: not as such, it is up to the co-chairs to judge, and we are aware that some working groups are larger than others. The key here is to identify the most active collaborators.

(Tyler: agreed, although about 10 is probably about right, and good to include past chairs)

Marta: in the Cosmology SWG we have used the wiki also as a mean to allow members posting their updates/data/results etc. to make them accessible to other people in the group. This implies a larger group of editors, at least to be able to update their profile area.

Philippa: good suggestion. I will discuss it with IT.

AOB:

Mark: signing off as co-chair of the Continuum working group.

Fatemeh: many thanks Mark for your work.

Fatemeh: There will be a telecon tomorrow with a technical focus group on source extraction methods with big data that has been working on this issue, also using the results of science data challenges 1 and 2. We will be able to update you on this. The Continuum SWG has also been collating some feedback on the sensitivity calculator as well as the long baseline science cases for SKA Low.

Anna: many thanks for that. On the sensitivity calculator, we have lined up for the next meeting a dedicated talk from one of the people working on it in sci-ops (probably Sarrvesh Shridar, TBC). So please come along to give any feedback or ask any question about it directly to them.

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