

SWG Chairs Telecon: 19-March-2019

Meeting notes: Evan Keane

Participants: SWGs: Lourdes Verdes-Montenegro, Garrelt Mellema, Eduard Kontar, Richard Battye, Willem van Straten, Gianni Bernardi, Sarah Blyth, Mark Sargent, Cormac Reynolds, Ann Mao, George Heald

Apologies: Justin Bray, Natasha Hurley-Walker, Phil Edwards, Jason Hessels, Françoise Combes, Doug Johnstone, Grazia Umana, Divya Oberoi

SKAO: Robert Braun, Evan Keane, Tyler Bourke, Anna Bonaldi, Cristina Garcia Miro

Topic: Governance

RB: The IGO signing ceremony took place on 12th of March with 7 initial signatories. More to follow, including “associate membership” for some countries once the IGO enters force. The hope is to have ratification by national governments complete for most signatories within 12 months.

Topic: SWG Chairs

RB: There is a nominal 2-year term for the role of SWG co-chairs. There are several cases where some rotation might be considered. Please discuss as appropriate within your SWG. No concerns/suggestions from the Chairs right now. But RB + project scientists will contact the SWGs/FGs shortly.

Topic: Newly released Documents

RB: Three recently released documents of relevance to the SWGs/FGs were noted. Mark Ashdown (SDP Project Scientist) + Anna Scaife (Univ. Manchester) have externally reviewed the first two of these documents and their assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

1. Anticipated SKA1 HPC Requirements (doc #941v2)
 - SKA Calibration Strategy
2. Scheduling & Archive Constraints (doc #951)
 - Implications of constraints on SDP HPC and (SDP → SRC) data transport
3. Data Challenges Overview (doc #1016)
 - Broader context for the Science Data Challenges

SDC1 is ongoing. Deadline March 15th, but now extended to April 15th. Preliminary results will be presented at the SKA science conference in April. 13 participant teams so far, some outside of SKA SWG community.

LourdesVM: at some point we need to include a challenge for reproducibility

RB: one of the things we will start to explore with the SDC1 results

LourdesVM: we need to expose the methodology for (a) replication; and (b) increased participation

RB: Yes, agreed, good point.

GianniB: what is the approximate timeline for these data challenge efforts?

RB: initially thought we could do worthwhile data challenges every ~6 months but now realise it is more difficult than that. Now aiming for ~9-month cadence. We are getting more staff to help us in this area. In some areas there is a massive community effort that we could only complement, and wouldn't try to re-do, e.g. some EoR, pulsar applications. We want to focus on areas not already being addressed.

GianniB: we need to consolidate efforts from community with SKA to maximise return from the sparse resources

RB: Yes, absolutely.

AnnaB: On the point of scarce resources, note that the SDCs are open. We want communities beyond the SWGs and even beyond radio astronomy. Useful tools and expertise is out there, and we have engagement in this way with SDC1 already.

GarreltM: part of Commission B1 of IAU, computational astrophysics. In that group the SKA data challenges were brought up by non-radio community!

Topic: Upcoming SKA-related Meetings

RB: Please keep passing along your announcements and we will advertise.

Topic: SWG banners/posters

TylerB: 7 done, 3 in final prep, few others in draft, few others completely missing. Need to sort out ASAP to be there for the SKA science meeting. There is still time but do it quickly.

RB: Here is a link if you want to download and print off the currently completed banners.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yb7tpn0u5b91iid/AAAFhgBkMfsUNjDPQhtRhRNqa?dl=0>

Topic: Science Meeting

The HQ reception on Monday evening is confirmed.

Please circulate the SWG break-out session schedules for the Workshop Days ASAP to permit coordination.

EvanK: Please send me the numbers per SWG in your estimation so I can compare to my own for use in planning break-out room sizes.

SarahB: Please note a large combined session on commensality between HI, cosmology, magnetism, continuum, ExSpL on the Thursday afternoon

EvanK: this will be in the auditorium then!

GarreltM: spammers have been contacting people with offers of arranging hotel accommodation

RichardB: this is a scam to extract credit card information, also had this for some other meeting previously.

RB: Please stay away! will warn the SWG list and the attendee list

RichardB: for the wrap-up session is 1 person/group going to give a talk?

RB: yes

TylerB: on the Thursday lunch time we are also organising a “working meeting” on the high-frequency science case, meaning higher than Band 5. Don’t want to have this as a large open meeting. Would like if each SWG had 1 or 2 people present if interested in these frequencies.

MarkS: The Friday afternoon wrap up session is 1hr20mins. Might be tight for 10 or 12 groups to report.

RB: Yes, it sounds tight. We will have a look at that.

MarkS: we probably need 15 mins/group

RB: Agreed.