

SKA status – November 2018

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IGO: progress of negotiations

- Convention documents now agreed
 - Delayed by Indian concerns over IP and issues around Italian Budget



- Final Record now agreed
- Italian presidency has finished circulated the documents for initialing
- Formal signing :
 - Ministerial level
 - Was scheduled Rome in September 2018
 - Australia, UK, South Africa, Netherlands, Portugal will sign Italy, China maybe
 - Sweden and India will not be early signatories; NZ and Canada "Associate"
 - Deferred now till February 2019. If Italy cannot host, may be in UK
 - (Germany and France status still developing)
- DIIS has submitted to Cabinet for approval to sign Convention and release NISA funds – nearly finalised



Transition to SKA Observatory

- Convention Preparatory Task Force
 - Responsible for transition and preparation for Observatory Council
 - Some progress:
 - Countries agreed need to develop Funding strategy and Tier 2 documents
 - Managed by Stratcom
- Key issues
 - Staff transition from existing Company to new IGO
 - Transfer of assets
 - Timing overlap of two organisations for some period of time ?



Pre-construction

- Design phase for SKA: 11 consortia winding down
- Consortia moving through Critical Design Reviews
 - System CDR expected slipped to November 2019
- CSIRO contributions well received:
 - Central Signal Processing passed sub-element CDR
 - Infrastructure Australia passed readiness review, all documents submitted
 - Signal and Data Transport preparing for CDR
 - AIV progressing to early 2019
- Issues:
 - Low frequency aperture array (LFAA) December 2018, then new SKAO led group
 - Cost increases in LFAA and DISH



Bridging

- Consortia are being dissolved after their CDRs
- Significant work still to be done for
 - System CDR and towards construction tenders
- SKAO moving into this new 'Bridging' period
 - Identified staff internally to work with SKAO directly
 - Institutes to have MOU (based on NEC4) with SKAO directly covering all works
 - Task managers
 - Institute / company (= Consultant) managers
 - Separate agreements with DIIS for funds not yet in place
- First spreadsheet circulated
 - Inconsistent across the consortia
 - 66 Priority 1 tasks with 112 people-years from 19 Consultants
 - Seems to include some EPA work?
 - ~15 FTE across Australian partners
- Funding from DIIS progress but still not confirmed.
 - Likely to sign MOU and Funding agreements together in December



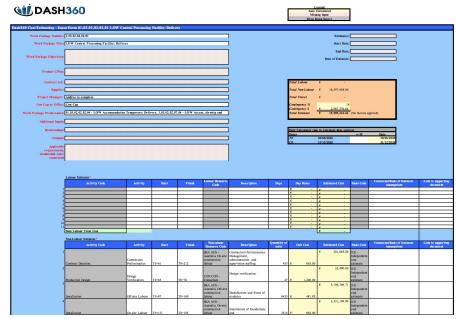
Construction planning I

- SKAO circulated request for information to member countries
- Identify areas of interest for construction
 - Up to 150% of proposed contribution
 - Infrastructure reduction still TBD
 - Identify areas subcontracted to other countries
- DIIS prepared Australia response
 - Consulted with CSIRO, ICRAR, Swinburne, WA Gov, Geraldton industry
- Includes potential CSIRO key roles:
 - Overall management of SKA Low assembly and integration (AIV)
 - Leadership of SKA Low infrastructure
 - Leading signal processing construction for SKA Low



Construction planning II

- Construction Planning workshop 28 29 November SKAO
 - Largely focused on developing cost book
 - New tool DASH360
 - Attendees from most relevant institutes and companies
 - Cost book forms a major element of project plan for project
 - Concern about range of existing estimates from various Consortia
 - DISH and LFAA increases





Australian SKA Regional Centre

- Continues to be good progress
- Collaborative work with ICRAR
- Small management committee established
 - Chaired by UWA/ICRAR
 - Members CSIRO, Curtin, ASKAP, MWA
- SKAO new model with more engagement in SRC
- Steering Committee for SRC to be established





Site Establishment

1. Key agreements:

- Lease, collaboration agreement
- Working with DIIS and WA Dept Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation
- Significant progress made at 29 October meeting on lease terms

2. ILUA negotiations continue:

- Agreement in principle on monetary and non-monetary benefits
- Concerns around communications with wider WY community continue
- Ongoing meetings with Principal Contacts (4 + 2 + 2) next meeting will be full Negotiating Team (17 from WY Over 25 in the room)

3. Site entity agreement with DIIS

- Relates to operations of MRO as overall site
- Awaiting funding details from DIIS



Site establishment II

- Heritage walkovers well underway
 - Required to walk entire SKA land (core, arms) to look for heritage artefacts and sites
 - Walk performed by
 - Traditional owners
 - CSIRO
 - Archeologist and anthropologist
 - Total 10 -12 people
 - Approximately 50% complete
 - 75% by end 2018
 - Confirms locations (or moves) for SKA





SKA Board Meeting

- 12 14 November at SKAO Jodrell Bank
 - First meeting in new Council Chambers
 - Many topics covered
 - Fund increase 2019 budget agreed
 - Procurement model urgently needed
 - Transition planning
 - Operations:
 - Workshop 2019
 - Partnership model for overall engagements
 for Australia and SA



