

Director’s Response to ATUC Report – September 2025

We thank ATUC for their report, which is available from [this link](#).

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ATNF Operations

ID	3 (a)
Owner	Stephen Ord and Minh Huynh
Summary of request	ATNF to advance efforts to secure medium- and long-term data storage resources by continuing NDRI applications for CASDA infrastructure support and exploring additional funding opportunities.
Response	The NDRI proposal, including a long-term storage request, was submitted in early October 2025 in collaboration with AAL and Data Central. The outcome is expected by March 2026. Separately, we continue to explore other funding opportunities within CSIRO for data storage resources. We will provide a verbal update relating to data storage resources at the next ATUC in-person meeting.

ID	3 (b)
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Owner	Minh Huynh
Summary of request	ATNF to engage with the SSTs to identify old or superseded data that could be removed, and to distinguish essential science-delivering data products from less critical data products for archiving considerations.
Response	<p>FLASH has already reduced the number of data products produced as part of their workflow by almost 50%. This has significantly improved our data ingest rates and reduced our data storage challenges. While there is a general desire to keep at least some auxiliary data products for the purpose of quality control and investigation into image artifacts, we will continue encouraging the SST PIs to trim auxiliary data products down to the absolute minimum. Note that this is not something that ATNF can do on its own, as changes will require consultation and active discussion with the user community. The local ATNF contact for each SST, assisted by the CASDA lead (Minh Huynh), will be in discussions with SSTs about their data products.</p> <p>We also reserve the right to delete data from the archive that survey teams have deemed non-science-quality.</p> <p>We are internally assessing the data rates requested for Guest Science Projects and will factor these into our assessment of technical feasibility while working with the PIs to minimise their archive footprint.</p>

ID	3 (c)
Owner	George Hobbs
Summary of request	ATNF to explore potential collaborations with the community (e.g., SSTs such as DINGO; ADACS) to implement and potentially develop data compression technologies.
Response	<p>We have undertaken significant effort to identify (and apply for) more data storage for ASKAP. As described in 3(b) we are also working with the community to ensure that we do not store more data than necessary in the archives. Clearly if the data volume that we wish to store exceeds the data storage that we expect to receive then we will need to prioritise data compression methods.</p> <p>We note that our pipelines, ingest and data flow and access methods have all been developed around the current data products and hence implementing any compression methods will also require updating the data flow procedures. However, we have started to consider potential data compression methods. We ran a short project (led by Agastya Kapur) to look at straight-forward compression methods on the ASKAP data products (e.g., running gzip etc.) and identified that, in some, cases large compression factors (50% in some cases) are possible. We therefore will continue to explore such algorithms in a more formal manner during 2026.</p> <p>We are also actively working with DINGO to support ADIOS compression of some pipeline data products and if successful, the experimental mode could be considered for operational integration pending compatibility with CASDA and community willingness to work with compressed data products</p> <p>Our team have recently updating the software to trim NaNs around the edge of data cubes. We have not yet quantified the data storage improvement that this provides, but could provide updates in the ATUC meeting if required.</p>

ID	3 (d)
Owner	Daleen Koch
Summary of request	ATNF to endeavour that the replacement of the substation 8 transformer happens at high priority, with the aim of returning the observatory to full power by the start of the October 2025 observing cycle.
Response	There was a problem between substation 8 and 9 in Narrabri. Substation 8 was successfully replaced as promised. However, the link between 8 and 9 still does not work, but we currently have work-arounds in place. This currently means that the 6A configuration is not available, but other 6km configurations are still possible. We will provide a progress update at the ATUC meeting.

Policies

ID	4 (a)
Owner	George Hobbs, Tim Galvin
Summary of request	ATNF to develop policies on the usage of LLMs at each stage of the proposal process. These policies should maintain confidentiality of the proposal contents, and facilitate robust scientific assessment. ATUC suggests that LLM tools should not be used to evaluate the strengths or weaknesses of a proposal.
Response	<p>We received concerns from the TAC that proposers were using LLMs to write proposals and as some of these led to very poor (and scientifically inaccurate proposals) such proposals were wasting TAC time. We also note this comment from ATUC about user concerns that LLM tools may be being used to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a proposal.</p> <p>We have updated the call for proposals and our webpage (https://www.atnf.csiro.au/facilities/apply-for-time/telescope-status/) to include an AI Usage Policy: <i>“The ATNF permits the use of AI-based tools to assist in preparing proposals, provided they are used responsibly. AI services may be used to improve the clarity, readability, and presentation of proposal text. Proposers are fully responsible for the content of their submitted proposals and must ensure that all scientific content and arguments are accurate, original, and appropriately cited. By selecting the acknowledgement checkbox in the OPAL proposal submission tool, proposers confirm that they have read and abide by all ATNF policies governing proposal preparation and submission.”</i></p> <p>The TAC members read the proposals and write their feedback in the OPAL system. There is now a clear statement noting that <i>“Reviewers are reminded that all proposals should be treated confidentially. This includes the use of AI or LLMs - please do not upload any proposals into AI tools as these documents are not in the public domain”</i>.</p> <p>During the TAC meeting we will verbally remind the TAC of these AI issues. We also note that CSIRO has recently developed an AI transparency statement.</p>

ID	4 (b)
Owner	George Hobbs, Cath Trott

Summary of request	ATNF, in consultation with the steering committee, should review the process for determining the relative priorities of existing SSPs and new science programs, factoring in relevant international developments and emerging science cases to maximise the scientific impact of ASKAP.
Response	<p>We discussed these topics with the ATNF Steering Committee in October 2025. Our proposal is to continue with the primary goal of completing (as defined by the RASSP time allocations) the survey science projects (SSPs) by the year 2030. This is based on discussions that indicate the science return from these surveys remains high and that significantly cutting the surveys will lead to major reputational risk.</p> <p>All modelled timelines to achieve this goal of survey completion by 2030 are tight and have little room for significant down-time, or for other projects. The timelines require approximately a 60% observing efficiency on the major surveys. This leaves space for small-scale guest science projects or for other emerging science cases that can fit between the survey observations. In the call for proposals we indicated that we will support guest science and new science projects, but only for those that can be accommodated without compromising the survey schedule.</p> <p>We note that the guest science time allocations remains at 300 hours per year. In 6d we report on updated text used in the call for proposals.</p>

ID	4 (c)
Owner	Gemma Anderson
Summary of request	ATNF to ensure that transparency regarding the reasoning behind the allocation of time to conflicting DDT/NAPA requests is given to observers where possible.
Response	We are developing policies to address conflicting NAPA/DDT-style proposals (merit-based, and paid) to guide decisions around scheduling and data access for all our facilities. This is non-trivial (as an example, multiple teams that have purchased time may wish to trigger on the same event, which may also be related to a TAC-approved project). We expect to present draft policy statements at the next ATUC.

ID	4 (d)
Owner	John Reynolds
Summary of request	ATNF to continue development of this new feedback system. Specifically, to prominently display how to send feedback/queries via the new ticketing system via webpages, and investigate a means of providing transparent tracking of tickets. ATUC requests an update on the usage of the new ticketing system at the next ATUC meeting.
Response	<p>An update will be provided as requested. However, we note that as of Feb 2026 the new feedback system has not been used at all. The ATNF.feedback@csiro.au mailing list was announced in the previous ATUC meeting and is listed on https://www.atnf.csiro.au/resources/help/, but our users are not making use of this contact method.</p> <p>Our users continue to make use of other methods (including ticketing systems for individual telescopes and direct messages to system scientists). We have also developed for our ASKAP community a group of CSIRO staff who provide the</p>

interface between the survey team and the development teams. During the ATUC meeting we will re-advertise the email address for the the feedback form and will continue to monitor its use.

ID	4 (e)
Owner	George Hobbs
Summary of request	ATNF to provide a clarification on the policy for SSP access to GSP data for commensal analysis and searches.
Response	The ASKAP publication policy applies to GSP data. This means that prior to public release, only the PIs and their nominated validators have access to the data products uploaded to CASDA. After validation and release, anyone can access the data products. We generally expect that validation occurs within about two weeks of upload. GSPs may apply for a proprietary period of up to one year when submitting their proposal. Searching for Fast Radio Bursts using the CRAFT CRACO system occurs commensally with most ASKAP observations. This can be deactivated for GSPs on request if required.

ATCA

ID	5 (a)
Owner	Elizabeth Mahony
Summary of request	ATNF to support community engagement in the development of ATCA data processing pipelines by creating a forum (e.g., on GitHub) to facilitate contributions and collaboration from the community. ATNF to host a BIGCAT data processing workshop to kick-start this process.
Response	<p>We have set-up a github repository, but until it has all the appropriate licenses we will not make it public. The BIGCAT commissioning team will add relevant scripts/data reduction tutorials to that github over the coming months. We aim to make this a publicly available repo, but need to work through the relevant licensing requirements. In the meantime we can add external users to the repo (noting that there is a cap on how many external users we can add).</p> <p>We have no plans to host a BIGCAT data processing workshop as the data processing has not drastically changed compared to CABB data (there is one additional step to convert MS to miriad format if required, documented on the BIGCAT webpage). We will also arrange BIGCAT data reduction tutorials to be included in the next ATNF Radio School (likely held in Narrabri).</p>

ASKAP

ID	6 (a)
Owner	Aidan Hotan
Summary of request	ATNF to continue developing advanced imaging methods and pipelines. ATUC requests clarity on ways in which these supported algorithms can be utilised by the community or potentially incorporated into the standard ASKAP pipeline.
Response	ATNF considers the development of advanced radio astronomy imaging algorithms and their practical implementations to be an important part of our

research. ATNF Science and Software & Computing have team members actively working on R&D efforts around advanced imaging, machine learning techniques and pipelines. Many of these efforts are published as new algorithms and during 2026 we will be exploring in more depth how to implement some of these algorithms into production (for all our facilities, not just ASKAP).

The ASKAP Key Capabilities Project addresses specific near-term development tasks aimed at requests made by the survey science community. These items have a short lead time and are expected to reach operational maturity on timescales of months.

In addition, we have reported in recent ATUC meetings on our alternative pipeline, FLINT. This is compatible with ASKAP data and was specifically designed to be portable and flexible. FLINT is available to the community and is an open-source project that the community can directly contribute to. The most promising techniques identified using FLINT will be ported back into the operational ASKAPsoft pipeline where possible.

FLINT is already being used effectively to post-process SSP data sets. Due to the close integration of the operational ASKAPsoft pipeline with the telescope and CASDA, the majority of our development effort continues to be spent improving ASKAPsoft.

We are currently investigating ways to improve reference-field calibration and reduce artifacts around bright sources using amplitude self-calibration in conjunction with the maturing RACS sky model. We are also developing advanced masking methods to avoid cleaning artifacts.

ID	6 (b)
Owner	George Hobbs, Cath Trott
Summary of request	ATNF to maintain transparency in how observations are prioritised on ASKAP. Timelines should be updated regularly (at least quarterly) to provide realistic expectations for SSP completion and to inform the feasibility of GSPs.
Response	<p>We continue to send a weekly message to the PIs of the ASKAP projects. In that message we include a table showing the number of observations completed for each project during that week and how that is tracking towards our monthly timeline. We explicitly note that those emails can be forwarded on to more members of the team.</p> <p>We also regularly update our webpage (https://www.atnf.csiro.au/facilities/askap-radio-telescope/status/) that contains information on the timeline, when a particular survey should expect their next data and the current predicted time for completion.</p> <p>In the supplementary material to this report we will provide updates on the status of the ASKAP surveys and will also give a verbal update during the meeting.</p>

ID	6 (c)
Owner	George Hobbs, Vanessa Moss

Summary of request	Ensure that ASKAP observations are scheduled with consideration of downstream processing and data upload capacity.
Response	<p>Around the time of the last ATUC meeting, we carried out a significant number of FLASH observations and found, at that time, that the ingest to CASDA was unable to keep up. We have now resolved these issues, which included technical issues that needed resolving for the archiving ingest (at that time the ingest rate was significantly lower than expected), but also by reducing the number of data products produced by FLASH (see response 3b). Over the last months we have not had a recurrence of these issues.</p> <p>We note that observations are scheduled with direct consideration of the impact on the downstream system, e.g. full-resolution observations cannot be scheduled if the ruby ingest cluster is below 15% capacity. Available disk space on the data ingest cluster serves as an effective trace of downstream issues with processing or archiving, and decreases rapidly in the face of such issues, as was the case in the above.</p>

ID	6 (d)
Owner	Vanessa Moss
Summary of request	ATNF to clearly communicate to proposers the constraints placed by SSPs on the times available for ASKAP guest science.
Response	The upcoming call for proposals has been updated to give more explicit indication of GSP parameters that will be more technically feasible and likely to sit alongside the higher-priority SSP observations. Specifically: shorter observations with minimal system or environmental constraints and maximum flexibility in when they can be scheduled.

ID	6 (e)
Owner	Kelly Gourdji
Summary of request	ATNF to continue to explore the possibility of VLBI with ASKAP, including by engaging the broader VLBI community.
Response	The technical feasibility is being investigated using the existing CRAFT voltage dump system and simultaneous UWL VLBI data. This experimental setup may also be used as a science demonstrator for ASKAP-VLBI. If the single-baseline is successful, other antennas at suitable frequencies may be added into the experimental setup. The feasibility of developing a phased VLBI mode will continue to be explored with engineers and operations in parallel. We will look for opportunities to engage with the user-community, including for instance at the ATNF Futures meeting.

ID	6 (f)
Owner	Andrew Zic
Summary of request	ATNF to provide an update on the progress of the LOTRUN survey, and to continue community engagement and operational support to make additional CRACO capability available to users through Guest Science observations.

Response	<p>LOTRUN Survey observations commenced in October 2025 and CRACO data is now undergoing quality assessment checks. We are still unable to archive CRACO data in CASDA. We hope to resolve this before the upcoming ATUC meeting. As soon as the first data is available on the archive we will advertise this via relevant channels (such as the weekly message sent to the ASKAP PIs). In addition, the LOTRUN team is preparing tools that will enable general users to process CRACO data using a mix of bespoke scripts (e.g., for de-dispersion) and standard radio interferometry software (e.g. CASA, wsclean).</p> <p>To date, LOTRUN has received 38 two-hour long observations. This is 38% of the total (200 hour) survey. The expectation is that LOTRUN will complete the majority of its observations during 2026.</p>
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LBA

ID	7 (a)
Owner	Phil Edwards
Summary of request	ATNF to investigate the development of VGOS capabilities on one or more telescopes (Murriyang, ATCA), and participation in IVS observations as an Observatory Project.
Response	This will be investigated and a report given at the next ATUC meeting. None of the ATNF telescopes currently has the simultaneous 2–12 GHz capability that VGOS uses, and Murriyang does not meet the “fast slewing” ambition for VGOS. However, there is a current ATCA proposal making use of CA06 (which is fixed in position) for astrometry and geodesy.

Murriyang

ID	8 (a)
Owner	Simon Johnston, Shi Dai
Summary of request	ATNF to continue prioritising the delivery of the CryoPAF for shared-risk observations starting in 2026.
Response	ATNF will continue to prioritise CryoPAF shared-risk observations. The CryoPAF was installed in November 2025, with science commissioning beginning in January 2026 and continuing through February and March. Assuming successful science commissioning, we aim to conduct shared-risk observations in March 2026. An update on the CryoPAF project will be provided at the ATUC meeting.

Future projects/demonstrators

ID	9 (a)
Owner	Keith Bannister
Summary of request	ATNF to provide regular updates on future instrumentation or demonstrator projects to ATUC, and develop a process for determining the community’s relative priorities relating to new or possible projects.
Response	<p>During the next ATUC meeting we will present on our R&D roadmap (to be developed in early 2026) and on the various future instrumentational and demonstrator projects. In particular we will ensure presentations are given on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAMBDA

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GINAN • CASATTA and all-sky monitors • ASKAP PAF • Parkes UWM-H <p>We will also be discussing future instrumentation at a community workshop being planned in Feb 2026 relating to the future direction for ASKAP. We also provide some basic information on these projects in the supplementary material attached to this response.</p>

ID	9 (b)
Owner	Tessa Vernstrom
Summary of request	LAMBDA: ATNF to investigate the possibility of using external partners like the MWA and international partnerships for technical and science demonstrations.
Response	The LAMBDA team is actively collaborating with a group in South Korea with plans for co-observing when the stations are complete. We are keeping up on the status of the real time beam forming for the MWA and have had conversations with those at GMRT and Japan about possible observing with LAMBDA

ID	9 (c)
Owner	Aidan Hotan
Summary of request	ATNF to continue investigating the feasibility and possible benefits of an upgraded single ASKAP PAF, while ensuring that this does not significantly impact current operations.
Response	<p>ATNF has committed resources to construct a single prototype Mk III Phased Array Feed for ASKAP that will be sufficiently backwards compatible with the existing digital systems to allow testing within the array. Conducting a thorough performance and long-term environmental soak test will require dedicating one antenna to the new PAF for some time (weeks to months). In the worst-case scenario, this antenna would be unavailable for ongoing science operations and would be used in single-dish mode to conduct performance tests only. The ultimate verification of the new PAF would involve using it in the existing array to make science-quality interferometric images, but the feasibility of this will depend on how well we can manage the weighting of an inhomogeneous array, and how well the prototype performs. If this proves to be feasible, we will consider leaving the prototype on one of the ASKAP antennas for an extended period. Otherwise, we will conduct sufficient performance testing to verify the design requirements of the Mk III and then restore the original Mk II PAF while awaiting a final decision on whether to proceed with an upgrade of the entire array.</p> <p>Temporary use of 1 antenna out of 36 is considered a reasonable compromise to ensure that we are prepared for any future ASKAP upgrade program. We will ensure that all the innermost 6 and the outermost 6 antennas remain in the primary ASKAP array so as not to compromise any of the SSP requirements. The test antenna will most likely be one close to the central building for easier access with heavy machinery.</p>

ID	9 (d)
Owner	Gemma Anderson, Cath Trott

Summary of request	Transient network: ATNF to work closely with the Australian university sector and other relevant partners on development of a feasible proposal within the ARC LIEF scheme.
Response	Discussions continue with the Australian community to scope a potential LIEF grant relating to developing an Australian Transient Facility that makes use of Australian radio instrumentation.

Community Engagement

ID	10 (a)
Owner	Rob Hollow, Kelly Gourджи
Summary of request	ATNF to establish an ATNF co-supervised student committee before the end of 2025, with clear terms of reference distinguishing between the roles of the ATUC student representatives and the ATNF Student Committee representatives.
Response	<p>Call for expressions of interest for being part of the ATNF Student Committee were sent out on the 4th November. This included the roles:</p> <p>Tasks/Roles for student members.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish and maintain an online communication panel for all S&A students to provide input and ideas to their student representatives. 2. Arrange student forum meetings ahead of ATUC and the Postgrad Student Committee meetings. 3. Liaise with the student representatives on ATUC and the DIB Committees. 4. Liaise with S&A staff to support student visits to observatories. 5. Identify service, professional development and training opportunities for students. 6. Coordinate planning for the annual student symposium. <p>We thank the students who responded to the EoI and the current committee membership is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob Hollow (student coordinator) • Kelly Gourджи (ECR representative) • Beth Cappellazzo (Macquarie University) • Sanja Lazarevic (Western Sydney) • Sparrow Roch (Swinburne) <p>The first meeting was held on 8 December 2025. The next meeting is currently being planned.</p> <p>We note that the ATNF student committee has oversight of the co-supervised student program (whether, or not, the students make use of the ATNF facilities). In contrast the ATUC student representatives have oversight over all the student-users of the ATNF facilities (many of which are not co-supervised through CSIRO).</p>

ID	10 (b)
Owner	Rob Hollow
Summary of request	In consultation with the Student Committee, the ATNF hosts training events for the benefit of the community, particularly students, ECRs, and non-radio astronomers.

Response	<p>We continue to engage with the students, the student committee and the university supervisors to identify areas where we can improve the student program. We also continue to look for new (and improved) ways to provide events that benefit other members of our community.</p> <p>Our primary training event for the benefit of the community is the Radio School. We are finalising planning for the Radio School that will take place in Narrabri in early June 2026 (to be formally announced shortly and being led by Dr Tessa Vernstrom).</p> <p>The Postgraduate Student Symposium was revived in 2025. The 2026 Symposium will be held on Wednesday 18 March, the day before the next ATUC meeting. The organisation of the symposium is being led by the Postgraduate Student Committee with other student volunteers.</p> <p>We have recently completed an observatory trip to both Narrabri and Parkes for our summer vacation students. In the recent past the students only visited Narrabri. We have received very positive feedback relating to them visiting both observatories this time.</p> <p>We are expecting that the graduate student committee will soon provide us with their suggestions for ensuring that some members of our graduate student cohort are able to visit our observatories. We have budgeted for this within the ATNF and expect to continue this initiative into the future if successful.</p> <p>We note (and are very thankful for) the students and ECRs who have been involved in scientific commissioning for the BIGCAT project. We expect there will be many more opportunities soon for supporting the BIGCAT, CryoPAF and LAMBDA projects.</p>
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ID	10 (c)
Owner	Rob Hollow
Summary of request	ATNF to develop a mechanism for receiving feedback from university partners on the student co-supervision program. This mechanism should be developed in consultation with university supervisors, via an open-ended set of questions capturing both positive aspects of the program and aspects that could be improved.
Response	<p>We have carried out a survey of the university supervisors linked to the student co-supervision program. Note that the survey was sent not just to the current university supervisors, but also to those who have supervised students who completed within the last few years. Unfortunately, we only received 16 responses, but the majority of those responses were consistent with each other. In particular, the results highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had a wide range of “How many postgraduate students have you supervised in conjunction with the S&A program?” with close to equal responses for “1”, “2”, “3 or 4” and “More than 4”. • The majority of the university supervisors indicated that they interacted with the CSIRO supervisor either “weekly” or “monthly”. One respondent selected “yearly”, whereas one other selected “daily”. • Most of the supervisors knew about the program by:

- Previously being a student themselves
- Through contacts at CSIRO
- Through initiatives such as the ACAMAR Australia-China consortium.
- We asked for the main benefits for students in the program and received (and similar responses for a related question on benefits for the university and the supervisor):
 - Collaboration opportunities, connections to a wider community, networking opportunities, exposure to a broader range of projects and ideas
 - Exposure to a large organisation
 - Access to world leading facilities and researchers
 - Travel funding
 - Access to CSIRO colloquia and supercomputing resources
- The challenges reported included:
 - “the paper work”, IT compliance, inductions
 - Lack of visits to Parkes at the moment
 - Lack of the students able to be a duty astronomer or get hands-on experience with any of our telescopes.
 - Distance between institutes (many of the universities are thousands of kilometres from CSIRO sites)
 - Australian VISA policies for international students.
- In terms of how the program could be improved, we received
 - Salary top-ups, increased funding
 - Restoring the connection between the students and the telescopes
 - Ensuring the students interact with each other
 - Better visibility into who is available as a CSIRO co-supervisor and what their areas of expertise are.
 - Advertise it more broadly, use some case studies to show the work being done
 - Internships
 - Note we also received very positive responses on the overall program similar to “It is as good as it can be”.
- We asked whether the co-supervisors were aware of any issues with the program. Almost all of the respondents simply wrote “no”, with a couple mentioning historical challenges, but noting that CSIRO is improving.
- In terms of a mark from 1 to 5 (5 being the highest) for “how happy are you with the program”, “how likely are you to recommend co-supervision to potential students” and “how likely are you to recommend the program to fellow university staff” all the responses were 3 or greater with mean responses being 4.6, 4.8 and 4.8 respectively.

We also remind the ATUC that previously we had run a survey of the ATNF co-supervisors. In summary the results from that survey were:

- The supervision includes PhD, Honours and Masters projects
- The majority of the CSIRO supervisors have supervised multiple students in conjunction with universities (with 40% of the responses having supervised more than 4 students as part of this program)

- The interaction between the university and CSIRO supervisors is mostly either “one of more times a week” or “once or twice per month”. Only two respondents selected “less than monthly”.
- We requested “On a scale of 1 to 10 with one being lowest, how likely are you to co-supervise a student in the future?” and the majority selected 9 or 10. The mean was 8.8.
- We asked “On a scale of 1 to 10 with one being the lowest how successful do you think our co-supervised postgraduate student program is?” The majority gave top marks (a 10) with all respondents giving a 7 or above. The mean was 8.8.
- We provided the opportunity to provide a text response to “Do you have any thoughts, suggestions or feedback on our postgraduate student program?” and the majority of the responses were very positive, including “keep it going”.

ID	10 (d)
Owner	George Hobbs
Summary of request	ATNF to explore inviting a small number of international ‘regional representatives’ to contribute to ATUC in some capacity, such as providing written templated feedback at least one month in advance of the meeting and/or attending remotely as a formal ATUC member.
Response	<p>It is our intention to continue discussion first with ATUC, but then to bring a plan to the ATNF Steering Committee for their May meeting relating to international representation on ATUC.</p> <p>Discussions so far have noted that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding constraints implies that we will not be able to provide travel support for international members to attend the ATUC meetings in person. • Time zones will be problematic for remote access to the meetings for many of the regional representatives. <p>Hence, the idea is for the regional representatives to receive the ATUC recommendations and our response and be involved in the pre-meeting discussions with ATUC members. They would then be asked to provide input from an international/regional perspective to the in-person ATUC members prior to the meeting and their input would be used in developing the next set of recommendations.</p> <p>The choice of regions to be represented would be based on ATNF facility use or areas where we feel could increase their use of ATNF facilities. Likely this would include China, India, some countries in Europe, North America and potentially Africa and/or South America.</p> <p>We request further ATUC advice on the best way to make this successful, including the length of terms for these representatives.</p>

Supplementary Information

Here we provide:

- Updates on the status of our facilities and expected use/upgrades/down-time over the next 6 months
- Statistics relating to the use of our facilities.

The information contained here has been obtained from: information provided to the Time Allocation Committee; from observatory staff; and from input to the ATNF annual report. Some historical information has been obtained from previous ATUC presentations.

ATCA and BIGCAT

BIGCAT is operating with the full 8 GHz of bandwidth. We expect tied array mode to be available during April 2026 semester. Near the start of the semester the ATCA will be shutdown to upgrade the infrastructure on antennas 4 and 5.

Murriyang and CryoPAF

We expect that CryoPAF engineering and science commissioning will continue in the 2026APR semester, with 24-hour blocks scheduled to begin at 08:00 local time on Tuesdays throughout the semester. These 24-hour blocks also allow us to perform vacuum regeneration for the CryoPAF system if required. This schedule is an estimate based on current plans and will be continuously reviewed in collaboration with the CryoPAF team. If needed, the Murriyang schedule will be released in stages to accommodate these updates.

At the start of the 2026APR semester, the CryoPAF is expected to remain in a “shared risk” status. The UWL will be the primary receiver for all fully-supported observations. The plan is to have the UWL and CryoPAF as the default installed receiver pairing, with swaps to MARS or 13mm made as needed to support VLBI observations.

ASKAP

We continue to update our timeline for ASKAP observations. The first formal version of that timeline will be made available to the community by the end of the year (after we have updated the timeline based on input from our operations team, the science teams and the ATNF steering committee). A summary of our current draft version is available from [this webpage](#).

Here we consider the primary surveys: EMU, WALLABY, GASKAP-OH, GASKAP-HI, FLASH, DINGO and VAST. We note that POSSUM is linked to EMU and WALLABY observations and CRAFT is commensal or carried out in CRAFT-filler time. We also note that the RASSP committee allocated specific time allocations for sub-projects of each of these primary surveys (e.g., VAST was divided into an allocation for Galactic time and another for extra-Galactic time). Here, we simply consider the total time allocation.

LBA

Traditionally we have scheduled two 5 to 6 day LBA sessions each semester, however with the BIGCAT upgrade and CryoPAF work, there has been less opportunity for LBA observing and there is now a backlog of observations. With the CryoPAF back in the Murriyang focus cabin, it is not yet clear when/whether high frequency receivers (8.4 GHz or 22 GHz) will next be able to be installed (as this would require removing either the CryoPAF or UWL receiver). The ATCA infrastructure upgrade will require another shutdown in 2026APR.

An LBA session has been scheduled for 18 to 23rd Feb 2026.

Summary of proposals

ATCA

Semester	Number of new proposals	Number of resubmitted proposals	Number of NAPA proposals	Requested hours	Oversubscription factor
2026APR	40 (1 new long term)	62	44	7346	3.8
2025OCT	39	63	42	6502	3.3
2025APR	36	48	40	6049	3.1
2024OCT	35	37	31	4362	2.3
2024APR	31	34	26	3888	1.3
2023OCT	25	28	22	4054	2.3

Murriyang

Semester	Number of new proposals	Number of resubmitted proposals	Number of NAPA proposals	Requested hours	Oversubscription factor
2026APR	31 (4 new long term)	45	14	4125	1.8
2025OCT	18	49	9	4252	1.8
2025APR	12	44	9	3460	1.7
2024OCT	14	38	8	3533	1.9
2024APR	17	45	6	3597	2.1
2023OCT	30	35	6	4423	1.9

- Note that 1 proposal requested "0.1 hours, but all of the Green Time"

LBA

Semester	Number of new proposals	Number of resubmitted proposals	Number of NAPA proposals	Requested hours	Oversubscription factor
2026APR	8	12	7	451	1.7
2025OCT	14	10	3	713	2.8
2025APR	10	9	4	481	1.9
2024OCT	7	6	4	379	1.5
2024APR	13	7	4	528	2.0
2023OCT	8	6	2	484	1.9

ASKAP Guest Science

Semester	Number of new proposals	Number of resubmitted proposals	Number of NAPA proposals	Requested hours	Oversubscription factor
2026APR	7 (from AS324)	4	1	881	5.9
2025OCT	1	5	1	469	3.1
2025APR	7	4	2	430	2.9
2024OCT	7	4	2	430	2.9
2024APR	-	-	-	-	-
2023OCT	-	-	-	-	-

Data Archiving Statistics

These numbers were obtained from previous ATUC presentations. We are currently determining how we can make a consistent set of statistics across the various archives. We also note that the ATOA data sets are being transferred into CASDA.

Year	ATOA total volume	DAP total volume	CASDA total volume	ATOA usage (TB/month)	DAP usage (TB/month)	CASDA usage (TB/month)
2025 (Oct)						
2025 (Apr)	0.6 PB	4.7 PB	8.8 PB	9.7	TBD	220
2024 (Oct)	0.6 PB	4.4 PB	7.6 PB	2.7	TBD	150
2023 (June)	0.5 PB	3.9 PB	3.6 PB	1.5	20	90
2022 (Nov)	0.5 PB	3.4 PB	2.7 PB	4.3	13	61

Publication Statistics

These statistics were published in the ATNF annual reports. They correspond to papers directly coming from observations from the facility. For instance, papers referring to a previously published data set, or catalogue, are not included.

Year	Murriyang related papers	ATCA related papers	LBA related papers	ASKAP related papers
2025	Not calculated yet	Not calculated yet	Not calculated yet	Not calculated yet
2024	40	41	7	46
2023	45	45	9	42
2022	40	55	3	41
2021	43	52	3	41
2020	41	51	6	22
2019	44	53	7	28

- Note that the ATCA papers were listed in the previous supplementary material in the wrong order. This has been fixed here.

Using ADS to obtain the highest cited papers that mention our facilities published recently we obtain (note that the number of citations and top papers from earlier years have been updated as well as adding in 2025):

Facility	Year published	Paper	Number of citations to date
Murriyang	2025	Stellar Mass Calibrations for Local Low-mass Galaxies	23
	2024	A NICER View of the Nearest and Brightest Millisecond Pulsar: PSR J0437–4715	246
	2023	Search for an Isotropic Gravitational-wave Background with the Parkes Pulsar Timing Array	1171
	2022	The International Pulsar Timing Array second data release: Search for an isotropic gravitational wave background	327
ATCA	2025	The Radio Fundamental Catalog. I. Astrometry	51
	2024	Ubiquitous Late Radio Emission from Tidal Disruption Events	94
	2023	A long-period radio transient active for three decades	103
	2022	Characterizing the Fast Radio Burst Host Galaxy Population and its Connection to Transients in the Local and Extragalactic Universe	214
ASKAP	2025	The commensal real-time ASKAP fast transient incoherent-sum survey	76
	2024	The SAGA Survey. III. A Census of 101 Satellite Systems around Milky Way–mass Galaxies	62
	2023	A Search for Extragalactic Fast Blue Optical Transients in ZTF and the Rate of AT2018cow-like Transients	160
	2022	Characterizing the Fast Radio Burst Host Galaxy Population and its Connection to Transients in the Local and Extragalactic Universe	214
LBA	2025	The Radio Fundamental Catalog. I. Astrometry	51
	2024	Swift J1727.8–1613 Has the Largest Resolved Continuous Jet Ever Seen in an X-Ray Binary	36
	2023	A Keplerian disk with a four-arm spiral birthing an episodically accreting high-mass protostar	40
	2022	Ambilateral collimation study of the twin-jets in NGC 1052	23

Co-supervised students

Our co-supervised ATNF students are listed on this [webpage](#) and summarised in the tables below. Note that some students are supervised by more than a single ATNF or university supervisor.

Date	Number of students	Number of different universities	Number of different ATNF supervisors	Number of different university supervisors
August 2025	37	15	25	37
February 2026	39	14	26	37

Date	August 2025		February 2026	
	Number of students	Number of unique university supervisors	Number of students	Number of unique university supervisors
Western Sydney University	3	4	3	4
UNSW Canberra	1	1	1	1
Australian National University	2	4	2	4
Macquarie University	5	5	6	5
University of Technology, Sydney	1	1	1	1
James Cook University	1	2	1	2
Swinburne University of Technology	5	6	5	6
Monash University	1	1	0	0

University of Tasmania	4	3	4	3
Griffith University	1	1	1	1
University of Sydney	7	4	9	5
Texas A&M University	1	1	1	1
Curtin University	3	2	2	1
Ruhr-Universität Bochum	1	1	1	1
University of Western Australia	1	1	2	2

New and upcoming projects

ATUC has requested information about our prototypes, test-beds and future-focussed projects. These include:

LAMBDA (Low-frequency Australian Megametre-Baseline Demonstrator Array): This is allowing us to take some first steps towards low-frequency VLBI capability in the southern hemisphere. LAMBDA is a modest project to demonstrate capability, provide the basis of a long-term technology development pathway, and provide motivation for future expansion of SKA-Low to match the original vision of a continent-scale telescope. A small LAMBDA station is being setup on the Narrabri site and we are exploring options for a second small prototype station on the Parkes site.

Parkes UWM-H: The primary receiver currently on Murrumbidgee is the Parkes ultra-wide-bandwidth low-frequency receiver operating from 704 MHz to 4032 MHz (of course, soon to be joined by the CryoPAF). To complement the low-frequency receiver we are developing a mid and high-frequency receiver planned to be commissioned in 2027:

- Frequency range for the mid-frequency receiver: 4160 to 15680 MHz
- Frequency range for the high-frequency receiver: 15680 to 27072 MHz (and up to 32300 with an analogue output for spacecraft tracking)

ASKAP PAF Upgrade: The Upgraded ASKAP Phased Array Feed (PAF) project commenced in October 2024 with the goal of developing and prototyping a new generation PAF which will significantly improve the ASKAP array performance while being compatible with the existing ASKAP systems. This project is also described in response 9(c) of the ATUC recommendations.

CASATTA: The goal of CASATTA is to develop all-sky monitors. We are in early stages of planning, but are considering demonstrator arrays with up to 16 elements and then science-worthy arrays from 64 to a huge number (e.g, 64k) of elements. A document is being prepared that will consider the science cases, optimal frequency bands and the configuration of any such array.

GINAN (Global Imprints from Nascent Atoms to Now): The GINAN team aim to detect global spectral distortions in the radio background. A recent update on this work is available [here](#) and <https://arxiv.org/abs/2509.11846> brightness at 60 to 350 MHz.