

SKA -- Indian Activities

A. Pramesh Rao (NCRA,Pune)

- Continuing work on the Pre Loaded Parabolic dishes (to be discussed later)
- GMRT upgrade (funds committed)
- Proposed Cluster Project
- NCRA-RRI meeting with Indian industry and other R&D organisations

NCRA-RRI Cluster Proposal

- **Proposal:** To build a cluster of 10-15 antennas of diameter 12-15 metres at the GMRT central square capable of going upto 8GHz
- **Funding:** Rs 60 million (~US\$1.2 million) from NCRA&RRI's available R&D budgets
- **Status:** Tata Consulting Engineers asked to examine designs (conventional, GMRT, PPD) for 12-15m antennas and minimise costs.

NCRA-RRI Cluster Proposal

- Motivation:

- SKA demonstrator
- shortspacing problem of GMRT
- projects needing frequencies higher than the 1.4GHz limit of GMRT
- radio support for ASTROSAT (India's X-ray&UV satellite to be launched in 2007)

NCRA-RRI meeting with non astronomical organisations

- One day workshop held on 19 June 2004 at the GMRT to discuss possibilities for interaction between radioastronomers and other organisations
- 20 participants from 10 organisations ranging from quasi government R&D organisations to private software/hardware companies located in Pune and Bangalore

NCR-RRI workshop

- Morning Talks:
 - Introduction to radioastronomy
 - Introduction to GMRT and wish list for GMRT upgrades including cluster project
 - Over view of issues regarding correlators
 - Issues involved in pulsar search and 'software' receivers
 - SKA - vision, challenges and opportunities
- Afternoon:
 - Tour of GMRT
 - General discussion

Outcome of Workshop

- While generally supportive, most participants wanted clear, well defined and time bound projects suited to their expertise
- Trying to convert GMRT upgrade and Cluster project to smaller projects so that some activity can be started
- Dialog continuing

