

SKA Activities in Europe

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on behalf of the European SKA Consortium

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European SKA Consortium

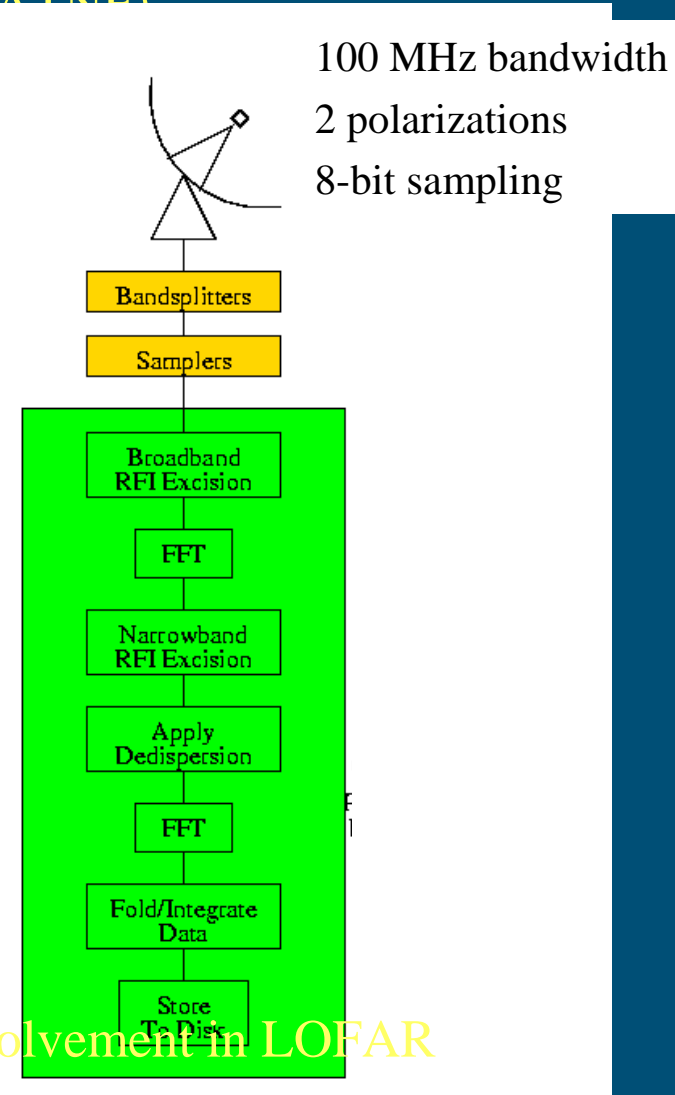
- Chairman: Harvey Butcher
- Vice-chairman: Phil Diamond
- Member Institutes:
 - ASTRON Netherlands
 - IRA Italy
 - JBO United Kingdom
 - MPIfR Germany
 - OAN Spain
 - Obs. de Paris France
 - OSO Sweden
 - TCA Poland
 - JIVE At-large

Activities: meetings since JBO workshop

- March 2001: RFI mitigation workshop – Bonn, Germany
- Sept 2001: JENAM 2001, European Astronomy Meeting
- Dec 6-9, 2001: High-resolution astronomy with SKA, Bonn, Germany – European workshop on high-res science
- Jan 2002, ISSC meeting in Bologna + science workshop
- Nov/Dec 2002, SKA-ALMA-OWL-NGST science meeting – possibly in Berlin

Activities: Technical

- EU RTD; funded RTD programme (FARADAY) for development of array receivers (JBO, ASTRON, IRA, TCA + ATNF)
- e-EVN; IST proposal to EU failed, exploring e-EVN as a single-baseline link between JBO and WSRT
- ASTRON: development of LOFAR – see presentation by Bregman, de Vos, van Ardenne and others. Development of array receiver technology
- JBO: development of e-MERLIN
 - Fibre optics → developing data transmission system and e-MERLIN, all will be relevant to SKA
 - e-MERLIN as pathfinder for SKA
 - RFI mitigation: HTSC filter development; mitigation studies
 - Planning work on SKA configuration studies
 - COBRA, funded 160 cpu Beowulf cluster - software spectrometer → development of correlators
- OSO: array configuration studies; possible involvement in LOFAR
- OAN/IRA/MPIfR: generic development in radio astronomy receivers



Activities: Political

- All participating institutes are informing funding agencies, politicians and local astronomical communities of SKA
 - Various funding initiatives going forward to national funding agencies. No SKA-specific programmes as yet.
- Contacts with OECD at ministerial level
 - Informed that European astronomers will tell them formally about SKA in 2005.
 - Plan to request serious funding in 7th EU Framework Programme from 2008.
- Outreach
 - Wilkinson & Diamond preparing a generic SKA presentation + supporting images/movies etc in an ftp repository for use around the world in promoting SKA.