



Australian Government

Senator Kim Carr's media releases

BID FOR ADVANCED RADIO TELESCOPE FOR AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

10 May 2011

The Gillard Government will provide \$40.2 million over four years to support Australia's bid to host the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), in partnership with New Zealand.

The SKA will be the largest and most advanced radio telescope ever constructed. It will consist of thousands of antennas, spread out across a continent and connected by a fibre-optic network, with the data it generates processed by a powerful supercomputer.



Artist's impression of dishes that will make up the SKA radio telescope.

Australia is an ideal candidate to host the SKA, thanks to the data and speed capabilities of the National Broadband Network, our large tracts of radio-quiet land and our research strengths in astronomy, the physical sciences and ICT.

Our joint bid with New Zealand is one of two shortlisted to host the SKA, with a decision on the final site expected early in 2012.

This funding will assist Australia's bid and support pre-construction design and development work if the bid is successful.

Attracting global investment in this massive technologically advanced project to Australia will generate spin-off returns for business.

Researchers and engineers from the world's leading institutions will work together on the SKA, developing the next generation technologies the project will demand. In turn, Australia's research community will build their skills and expand their networks.

They can use those same capabilities to create cutting-edge products for consumers in computing, in renewable energy and in communications.

By the end of 2011 the SKA program will be ready to transition to the detailed design and pre-construction engineering phase.

Finding room for this funding in a responsible Budget shows the strength of the Government's support for Australia's involvement in this important international project.