



# The European SKA Consortium

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# A bit of history

ESKAC was formed in 2002 to:

- promote the SKA as a global programme requiring a major European contribution
- foster European and global technical and scientific activities related to the SKA
- stimulate and support individual national and joint international funding applications for scientific and technical development and operation of the SKA

# A bit of history

and to:

- represent the participation of Europe in the International SKA programme and appoint European members for the SKA Science and Engineering Committee (SSEC) and for related activities as described in the ESKAC Rules of Procedure
- administer European contributions to the common fund supporting the SKA Program Development Office (SPDO)

# ESKAC membership



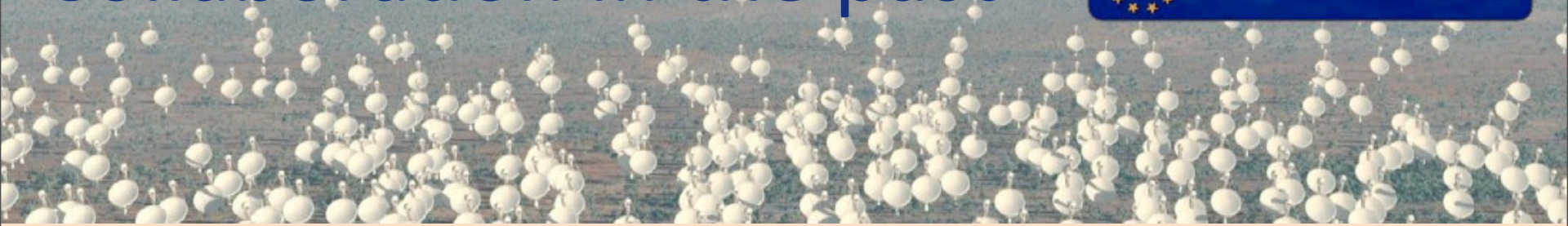
- RadioNet
- JIVE
- ASTRON (Netherlands)
- INAF/IRA (Italy)
- MPIfR (Germany)
- Observatoire de Paris (France)
- OAN (Spain)
- Onsala Observatory (Sweden)
- University of Manchester (UK)
- University of Oxford (UK)
- University of Cambridge (UK)
- Netherlands Research School for Astronomy (NOVA, Netherlands)
- German University Consortium (Germany)
- VIA-SKA (Spain)
- Portugese Radio Astronomy Consortium (Portugal)

# Scene in 2012 – 2015



- SKA Organisation needs to grow, take control and master the global project
- community interest needs to increase further throughout Europe
- ESKAC can raise interest in SKA in Europe and stimulate and facilitate scientific and technical collaboration

# Collaboration in the past



## SKADS (EC FP6 SKA Design Study: Aperture Arrays)

Involved ~30 institutions from: NL, UK, IT, FR, DE, ES, PT, SE, PL, RU, AU, CA, ZA.

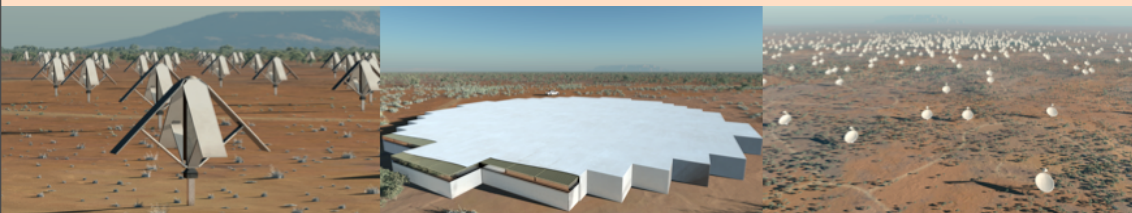
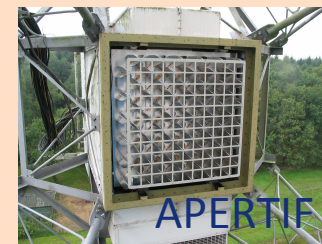
Related to SKADS: a Marie Curie training programme



## PrepSKA (EC FP7 Preparatory Phase)

next step involving ~20 institutions and funding agencies from: UK, NL, FR, IT, DE, SE, PT, AU, CA, ZA, USA, KR

Emphasis on a design and implementation plan and studies on governance, financing, industry involvement and procurement



LOFAR station at Onsala

# Next steps

- acquire new members: institutions/consortia/organisations
- serve as an information conduit from the European members of the SKA Organisation to the communities in non-member countries
- stimulate and facilitate scientific interest in SKA in Europe
- make an inventory of SKA (SKA pathfinder) interest and involvement (will also be relevant in the context of the AstroNet Science Vision and Roadmap updates); disseminate SKA relevant information
- organise science meetings: *The Modern Radio Universe*, 22-26 April 2013 in Bonn.
- stimulate EC Horizon 2020 proposal preparation: to be done in 2012 – 2013

# SKA Pathfinders

- LOFAR
- e-EVN and e-MERLIN
- APERTIF on the WSRT
- J-VLA (former E-VLA)
- ASKAP
- MeerKAT





# EC Horizon 2020

based on a presentation by E. Righi-Steele

Horizon 2020, three priorities:

1. Excellent science
2. Industrial leadership
3. Societal challenges

Emphasis on Research Infrastructures (2.4 B€ out of 24 B€):

- major scientific equipment
- knowledge based resources: archives
- e-infrastructures: computing, software systems, intelligent data bases
- funding of: preparatory phase, implementation phase, operational phase

Key items: foster innovation, strengthen human capital, facilitate international collaboration; first calls early 2014: need to prepare now

# The ESKAC web site



Homepage | ESKAC

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- Home
- Information
- Partners
- ESKAC wiki
- SKA website
- SKADS website
- Path2SKA

## Homepage

Welcome to the website of the European SKA Consortium (ESKAC).

ESKAC is a consortium of Institutes and Organisations in Europe. Its mission is to foster scientific and technical support for the Square Kilometre Array, to stimulate European collaboration and to promote scientific, technical and policy developments in Europe that ensure the realisation of the Square Kilometre Array.



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