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SKADS, Square Kilometre Array Design Studies, the European effort towards the world's largest radio telescope, successfully completed a Mid Term Review which was held at the Paris Observatory on 12 October. This 38M Euro project involves nine European Countries, South Africa, Australia, Canada and the Russian Republic, and is led by ASTRON in the Netherlands.

External reviewer Prof. John Seiradakis from the University of Thessaloniki in Greece, together with the representative of the European Commission conducting the Review, concluded that "SKADS is excelling beyond expectations, uniting Europe in developing a common technological concept for the SKA". Such a positive judgement firmly establishes SKADS in the international arena as it heads into its final two years.

SKADS investigates the astronomical and technological potential of the most innovative concept of the global endeavour for the design of the next generation radio telescope called the Square Kilometre Array. Apart from the technological aspects, SKADS uniquely addresses astronomical and data simulations, for the most complete study of the SKA requirements and is the leading international programme.

The SKADS concept is based on an electronically controlled radio telescope rather than the more commonly known parabolic reflector antennas. The technique has been thoroughly investigated by ASTRON and has been applied on a smaller scale in LOFAR, the first of this new generation of Software telescopes.

For further information visit www.skads-eu.org or contact info@skads-eu.org

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ASTRON is an institute of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, NWO.

