



Widefield Astronomy and Technologies for the SKA

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SKADS: Broad Objectives

- Demonstrate SKA Scientific Viability and Readiness
- Demonstrate cost-effective Engineering Solutions and Technological Readiness
- Deliver a costed SKA Design



SKADS Preparation



- Dec 2002: "Let's start" meeting at ASTRON
- Feb 2003: Grenoble (small part)
- Feb 2003: Medicina

We took a long time to get the structure "right"
and then had many further set-up meetings

- May 2003: Search Bank
- June 2003: Schiphol
- Sept 2003: Nancy

In the end 9 European + 4 other countries
26 institutions

- Nov 2003: Brussels
- Dec 2003: Schiphol
- Feb 2004: Madrid
- Mar 2004: Proposal submitted



SKADS Structure



- FP6 SKADS designed as a "complete" programme
 - Scientific and technical simulations: DS2
 - Basic technology R&D: DS3, DS4
 - Demonstrators of AAs & electronic beam forming
 - A costed design for an entire SKA DS3, DS8
- Programme unusual: sum of national > EC funding
- EC funding was the crucial catalyst
- Programme now almost completed....

DS5: EMBRACE
DS4-T6: 2-PAD
DS6: BEST



Status at end of SKADS



New DNA → explosion of "life forms"
"Survival of fittest" taking place
(Darwinian evolution)

SKADS was a great success - brought Europe together under the SKA banner

- The next generation is not neglected.... Many able (& young) scientists and engineers attracted into SKADS/SKA "family" + Marie Curie training programme (6 workshops held)



Upcoming European challenges

- Sustaining coherence within international "PrepSKA"
 - ESKAC reformed as over-arching focus of effort
- Securing national funding to maintain the scope of the programme
 - no specific EC funding as a focus - contrasts with SKADS
- Proving AA readiness for SKA Phase 1: AAVP
 - Astronomical-grade performances in stand alone and interferometry modes
 - Environmental robustness on an SKA-type site
 - Technology choices
 - AAVP emerged: (A3IV, AA-SEM, DAAVS)
 - needs to be planned as a complete whole - like SKADS - but now linked closely with the international programme
 - will take many more meetings !!



SKA began in Europe and has been greatly helped to develop by the EU (SKADS and PrepSKA)

Let's work together sure we remain in a leading position within the international PrepSKA development programme

This exciting workshop is another step along the way...