
Towards the SKA: using its Precursors, ASKAP and MeerKAT (and APERTIF)

Wim Van Driel*¹

¹Observatoire de Paris, GEPI – Observatoire Paris – France

Résumé

The full SKA will be an instrument of truly astounding potential for discoveries. Although getting it built is a long-term project, it has the advantage of being a giant interferometer consisting of a myriad antennas, which can be built out over time, with exciting science goals that evolve as construction progresses. An important step towards building the SKA already started some time ago: the construction of its so-called Pathfinder instruments, ASKAP (Australia) and MeerKAT (South Africa), which will be complemented in the Northern hemisphere by APERTIF (Netherlands), and which will be fully operational just a few years from now. An overview will be given of these instruments and the science planned with them for their first years of operation - with particular focus on their interests for the French astronomical community.

*Intervenant