

SKA-Low The INAF contribution

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History of INAF participation to SKA











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The Square Kilometre Array The International Radio Telescope for the 21st Century

EU

·UΥ

eletion of the SKA at lo/mid band fr







SKA antenna concepts







China KARST



Lenses





Canada Large reflector

Australia cylindrical paraboloid

Australia Luneburg

Dutch













SKADS







Organizational structure







SKADS demonstrators









BEST-2 test bed: Radio over Fiber experiences



Presented by Monari Jader IRA-INAF Radiotelescopio Croce del Nord Villafontana (BD) ITALY Email : j.monari@ira.inaf.it







Coaxials vs Fibers

Coaxial cables to external cabins where signals can be digitized and sent via Fast Ethernet links to the processing room



Analogue Optical Links directly from Focal Lines to the Processing Room

The costs of both of them are very similar (hardware and manpower) Which solutions?







... the reliability is improved with the use if analog optical link data transport....









RF Analog Optical Link Vs digital link....

- Big efforts are spent to design low cost analog links because they offer several benefits:
- 1) The electronic move from the outside cabins to the processing room in the central building.
- 2) More Reliable, less risks and easier maintenance.
- 3) No Sync, LO and PPS distribution from the main building to cabins.
- 4) Fibers are cheaper, lighter and more flexible than coaxial cables.
- 5) Fibers have more phase stability vs temperature and amplitude equalization in wide bandwidth than coaxial.





IEEE Antennas & Propagation Magazine

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Basic Element for Square Kilometer Array Training (BEST): Evaluation of the Antenna Noise Temperature

P. Bolli¹, F. Perini², S. Montebugnoli², G. Pelosi³, S. Poppi¹

2008



Sparse Aperture Arrays

Aperture Array Verification Programme: Toward the SKA

Project size: ~18-20M€ 100+ FTE 42 month 15 institutes 9 European countries + Australia & SA

> www.SKA-AAVP.eu secretary@SKA-AAVP.eu www.ska-aavp.eu/aavpwiki













FUNDING & RESOURCE PROVIDED BY COOPERATING INSTITUTION

Proposed Effective Date:		Ju	ly 2013			
	Stage 1			Stage 2		
	ĸ€	Source	FTE ¹	K€	Source	FTE
Staff:	495K€	INAF- CNR/IEIIT- CNR/IMEM- UNIBO- POLITO	7,5	633,6K€	INAF- CNR/IEIIT- CNR/IMEM- UNIBO-POLITO	9,6
Equipment:	70K€ (MAD) 150K€ (SAD) 50K€ (Labs) 10K€ (CCL payment)	INAF -RAS		250K€ (AAVS1) 270K€ (SAD) 70K€ (Labs) 50K€ (RE development)	INAF - RAS	
Industrial:	96K€	INAF		132K€	INAF	
Travel :	SOK€	INAF		100K€	INAF	
Total:	921K€		1	1505,6K€		

CONSORTIUM LEAD ORGANISATION

ASTRON Name of Institution



GPB Macun Signature of Authorked Official

CONSORTIUM MEMBER

Name of Institution

Giovanni F. Bignami INAF Presidente

Prof. M.A. Garrett General Director Name & Title of Authorized Official 4-6-2013Date

Name & Title of Authorized Official

INAF

Date

Provisional Acceptance, parts that contribute to the SAD project are not considered to contribute to LFAA work

1 FTE=12MM=66K€ (+ taxes)



AvA Presentation KO meeting @Zandaam 10/03/2010



December 2010

Optimization of AA-low systems

AAVP Workshop



December 2010

Optimization of AA-low systems

AAVP Workshop

AAlo basic block diagram



December 2010

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Optimization of AA-low systems

AAVP Workshop

AAVP Antennas



Picture took in Perth September 2011

Dual-Pol Log-periodic	Dual-Pol Vivaldi version 1	Dual-Pol Vivaldi version 2	Dual-Pol Vivaldi version 3.1	
 Pro Well-known design Simple manufacturing Low-cost 	 Pro Good reflection coefficient (50 Ohm) High isolation between polarizations 	 Pro Acceptable refl. Coeff. (50 Ohm) High isolation between polarizations Lower back lobe Higher directivity at 45° 	 Pro Very High directivity in the required sky coverage Very Low back lobe High isolation between polarizations 	
ConsCons- poor cross polarization performance- High back lobe		Cons - Refl. Coeff is -4 dB at 120 MHz	Cons - Lower directivity at 45°	

JM Presentation ICEA@Turin 9-13/09/2016





Aperture Array Design & Construction Consortium

The Low Frequency Aperture Array

Jan Geralt Bij de Vaate















9 May 2016



INAF Team (2016)





AADC board member: Davide Fierro <u>Coordination & RX WP leader</u>: Jader Monari <u>Antenna & Calibration: Pietro Bolli, Giuseppe Pupillo</u>, Salvatore Pluchino <u>Receiver Chain</u>: Federico Perini, Simone Rusticelli, Marco Poloni <u>Mechanics</u>: Marco Schiaffino <u>Signal Processing</u>: Francesco Schillirò, Monica Alderighi, Giovanni Naldi, Andrea Mattana <u>Firmware: Gianni Comoretto</u>, Carolina Belli, Simone Chiarucci <u>Admistration</u>: Alice Tabellini

INAF - LFAA technical group (internal organigram -2016)





Hall hands meeting@Sasso Marconi (BO) 09/05/2016

Research Contracts





Main Past/Current Activities

- Vivaldi design
- Hexacopter test bench
- RFoF technology (standard, WDM, VCSEL, POF)
- Pattern measurement/Calibration for Vivaldi/SKALA, Mini MAD, MAD-1,2,3
- iTPM assembly (PREADU PRE-analogue board and ADU (Analogue Digital Unit)









Hexacopter for RF measurements





The UAV is equipped with a transmitter emitting a CW linear polarized signal with a power of about 3 mW, tunable in frequency from 35 MHz to 1.1 GHz



1-4 Embedded Element Patterns





G. Pupillo, et al. "Calibration of aperture array receivers based on unmanned aerial vehicle", 2nd ERATEC Workshop on Calibration of multi-beam receivers, Bologna, 28-29 October 2013

CNR IEIIT – Applied Electromagnetics Group

Modelling of antennas and calibration of radio instruments, Brussels, June 6, 2014

A PROJECT WITHIN A PROJECT (AAVS1)





Antenna deploy











On-field cabling and testing











Correlator room - Acquisition system









Aperture Array Verification System 1





A full station of 256 antennas at CSIRO's Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory in outback Western Australia. The demonstrator is used to help test and finalise the design of the low frequency antennas for the SKA. Credit: ICRAR/Curtin University

Perth, Western Australia, Thursday 24 May – A complete prototype station of antennas for the future SKA-low telescope has been completed and is being tested at the SKA site in Western











No vision about the integrated system



...design approach

Solution-oriented approach: an *initial solution* is proposed, analysed and then *repeatedly modified* as the design space and requirements are explored together.

Problem-oriented approach: the emphasis is placed upon *abstraction* and *thorough analysis of the problem* structure *before* generating a *range of possible solutions*.



Simple,

Single - discipline Multi-discipline

Complex,





Solution

Oriented

Novel

Unprecedented

Well-known.



INAF









SKALA4.1AL Antenna



Als IEEE Open Journal of Antennas and Propagation

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Test-Driven Design of an Active Dual-Polarized Log-Periodic Antenna for the Square Kilometre Array

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 ⁵Institute of Electronics, Computer and Telecommunication Engineering, CNR, 10129 Turin, Italy
 ⁶Department of Computational Electromagnetic Engineering, Ingegneria dei Sistemi, 56121 Pisa, Italy
 ⁷Department of Project Engineering, Square Kilometre Array Organization, Lower Withington SK11 9FT, U.K. CORRESPONDING AUTHOR: P. BOLLI (e-mail: pbolli@arcetri.inaf.it)

- Dual-polarized LPDA.
- 20 dipoles: 19 triangular-tooth plus 1 bow-tie at the bottom of the antenna.
- Solid dipoles on the high-frequency elements and wire dipoles on the low-frequency ones.
- 1-degree tilted boom.
- Aluminium-made.
- Electrical connection of the antenna to the ground plane.
- Antenna matched to a single-ended 50-ohm LNA.
- LNA encapsulated in the top-cap of the antenna and connected to a coaxial cable embedded in the antenna booms.



The pre-EPA bridging project for SKA_low

Steven Tingay (Curtin University), Jader Monari (INAF), Ant Schinckel (CSIRO), André van Es (SKAO), and Luca Stringhetti (SKAO).



INAF

SKAO

Bridging phases - preconstruction epoch

Instrument: Phase 0

Target Date: November 2018 * To be deployed week commencing 26 November 2019 * Preliminary activity: 24-hour scan with single pol from both antennas, via coax (ex. SMART), to two spectrum analysers housed inside the APIU. Require two identical SpecAn (Agilent N9344C?). *Final configuration: Per below, mapped to TPM for continuous operation until superseded by Phase-1 from March 2019. IMRIOO + 2 QTY1 x EDA2 dipole LMR100 × 2 EDA2 SMART Box AAVS1 APIU

QTY1 x SKALA4 AL

ID	Element	Proposed		
(a)	Fibre optic cable	Use cable procured for EDA2		
(b)	Fibre optic cable	Existing AAVS cable 192-core		
(c)	Power cable	Procure specific for purpose cable (XT30 on APIU end)		
(d)	Power cable	Existing AAVS supply cable		









UAV mission-AAVS1.5







EDA2 and AAVS2



2 demonstrators built at MRO site to verify SKA1-low system before construction

EDA2 (2019) 256 MWA dipoles LNA modified for 50-350 MHz 35 m diameter

AAVS2 (end of 2019) 256 SKALA 4.1 log-periodic LNA optimized for full 50-350 MHz 38 m diameter





Aerial view of EDA2 and AAVS2 - Credits: Icrar/Curtin



1.5e+03

2.9e+03

PSF ~ 2.7 deg

1e+02

-1.3e+03

AAVS2: first light





See Giulia Macario's talk

Jy/beam

4.3e+03



Receiver chain: technology made in Italy





Industrial Contracts (2017-2023)





























Analogue RFoF link





Tile Processing Module



- Convert analogue optical to electrical signals
- Amplify and bandpass filter ready for digitisation;
- Digitise at 800MS/s and pass to digital processing;
- Manage the clock distribution and the memory storage;
- Digitally process;
- Packetize Data for 100 Gbit/sec data processing;
- Control and monitoring functionality

Firmware



- LFAA firmware used in the iTPM board to
 - Channelize, calibrate and align antenna signals
 - Combine 256 antennas in up to 48 beams
 - Format and transmit beamformed signals to correlator
 - Format and transmit selected signals to calibration server
- Prototype firmware used in AAVS array
- Significant work required for industrial grade final system
- People: 3 persons (1 FTE) INAF, 4 persons (3 FTE) UK



Software



Low level control software

- Hardware drivers: developed together with firmware blocks
- General standalone software, used at AAVS array
- Control of cabinet and subrack electronics (power management, temperature, cooling)

Integration of hardware in SKA Low LMC

- Device software in the Tango Control environment
- Hardware related problems: antenna pointing, beam management, obsrvation management, calibration strategies
- Interface with other systems (correlator, telescope manager)
- Network design and management (SKA as a network defined instrument)

Where do we are today?





INAF - SKAlow team today





Summary of the efforts spent

	FTE	FTE partner	Total FTE	Industry	Development	Travel	Total per year
2012-2013	7,64	1,38	9,02	- €	185.000€	20.000€	800.000€
2013-2014	7,91	1,42	9,33	100.000€	256.000€	20.000€	992.000€
2014-2015	8,00	1,48	9,48	- €	165.000€	49.800€	840.800€
2015-2016	9,91	1,33	11,24	589.300€	212.200€	41.000€	1.584.500€
2016-2017	11,64	1,30	12,94	227.000€	153.000€	50.000€	1.284.000€
2017-2018	11,64	1,30	12,94	188.000€	61.000€	60.400€	1.163.400€
2018-2019 (P2 ext)	11,18	1,59	12,77	198.000€	56.000€	60.400€	1.157.400€
2019-2020 (low B)	11,27	1,52	12,79	937.000€	95.200€	100.000€	1.976.200€
2020-2021	10,19	1,15	11,34	626.000€	79.000€	- €	1.453.660€
2021-2022	9,29	1,15	10,44	55.000€	61.000€	150.000€	955.200€
TOTAL	98,66	13,64	112,30	2.920.300 €	1.323.400€	551.600€	12.207.160 €

Contratto In-Kind 1 (2021)	≃ 1.000.000		
Contratto Extra In-Kind 2 (2023)	≃1.380.000		
Contratto Cash*	700K€x3≃2.100.000		
Totale	≃4.400.000€		
Industrial Geo return – Allocated- - Real	67.000.000€ 80 / 90.000.000€		

* Spese dirette future non sono calcolate in quanto fatturate a SKAO

** Nelle spese «development» sono incluse costi di strumentazione per laboratori INAF

*** Spese del personale in termini FTE, non sono calcolati nel computo complessivo (flat rate di 66K€xFTE)

.... INAF and the future ...

cit. Yoda <<Difficult to see. Always in motion is the future.>>



- Increase resources and efforts for the commissioning and early science phases.
- Finalize the technology/experience handover to SKAO and to Italian industries (now at 95%).
- Facilitate communication for the coordination of production between SKAO and Italian industrial companies.
- Continue support for the fine tuning of designs and ECP based on the feedback received from the first productions.
- Support the debugging and contribution to the "problem solving" process for any issues that may arise.
- At a prototype level, continue the development of some critical elements to improve efficiency in integration/installation, maintenance, reliability and where there are still margins, improve performances.
- Contribution to the development of a new generation of systems / subsystems in anticipation of a phase 2 after AA*.

Conclusions



The experience and capabilities exploited by INAF researchers in the field of SKALow radio technologies is today recognized internationally thanks to the promotion and efforts and development of the last 20 year. This allows our young technological researchers to be able to enter even more challenging and ambitious projects with a layer of state-of-the-art knowledge.



Thank you team for the incredible job!































Grazie per l'attenzione





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