

Historical & Cultural Astronomy

Series Editors: W. Orchiston · M. Rothenberg · C. Cunningham

Richard T. Schilizzi

Ronald D. Ekers

Peter E. Dewdney

Philip Crosby

The Square Kilometre Array

A Science Mega-Project in the Making,
1990–2012

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 Springer

SKA History in one slide

1970s -1980s

Origins

Pre-history

1990

IAU Colloquium 131

1993 - 1999

Collaboration takes form

Grass-roots era

1999 - 2006

And evolves its management, obtains study funding

Site selection begins → shortlist (2006, Australia and Southern Africa)

2006 - 2012

Science, engineering, proj. mgt, governance formalised

Transition era

Site selection → dual-site decision (2012)

HQ location selection (2008, 2011)

2012 - 2021

Pre-construction

Pre-construction era

2021 →

Construction, SKA Observatory

Construction era

The originators



Govind Swarup

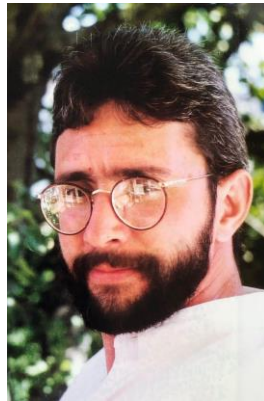


Yuri Pariiskii



Peter Wilkinson

Photos circa 1990



Robert Braun



Ger de Bruyn



Jan Noordam

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Challenges 2006-2012

- 1) Funding approval
- 2) Site selection
- 3) Engineering design
- 4) Governance

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“The challenge was how to build organisational legitimacy to allow operation in a situation where you lack traditional managerial controls, and the task structure is highly uncertain.”

Nuno Gil, Professor of New Infrastructure Development, UManchester

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Key Science Projects, SKA1 definition, Roadmaps/Decadal Surveys, PrepSKA, Agencies SKA Group, SKA Organisation, Project Execution plan

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