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The Square Kilometre Array

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8 July 2024

Historical & Cultural Astronomy

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The Square Kilometre Array

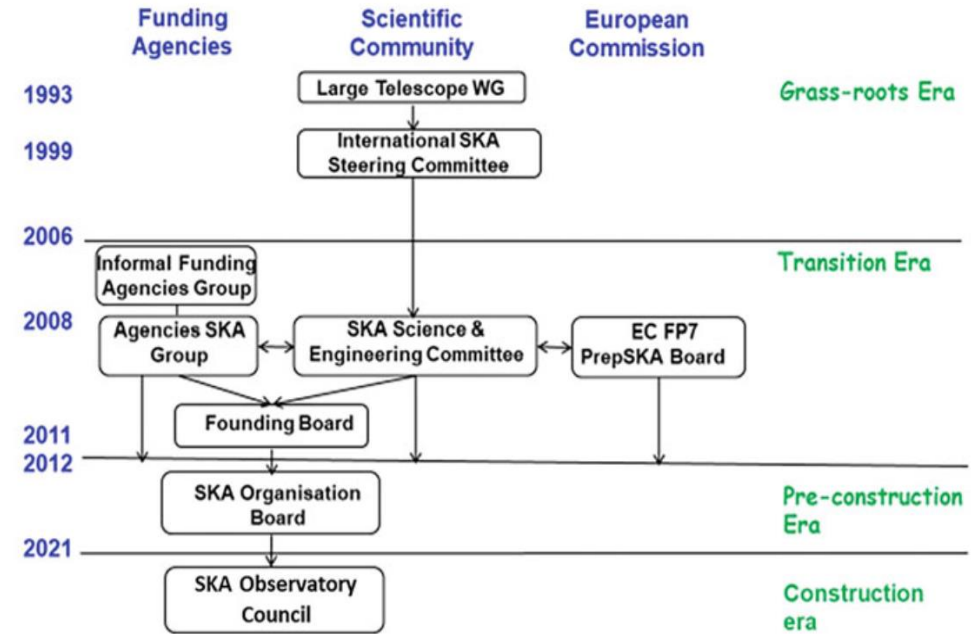
A Science Mega-Project in the Making,
1990-2012

OPEN ACCESS

 Springer

How a grand vision became reality

- **Inspiration** and **ambition**
- Continuous **compromise**
– done is better than perfect
- **Transitions** of governance and organisation
- Ultimately – a success story



A **science driven, bottom-up, worldwide** project that successfully evolved into a funded, government-driven international **treaty organisation**

A science and engineering megaproject

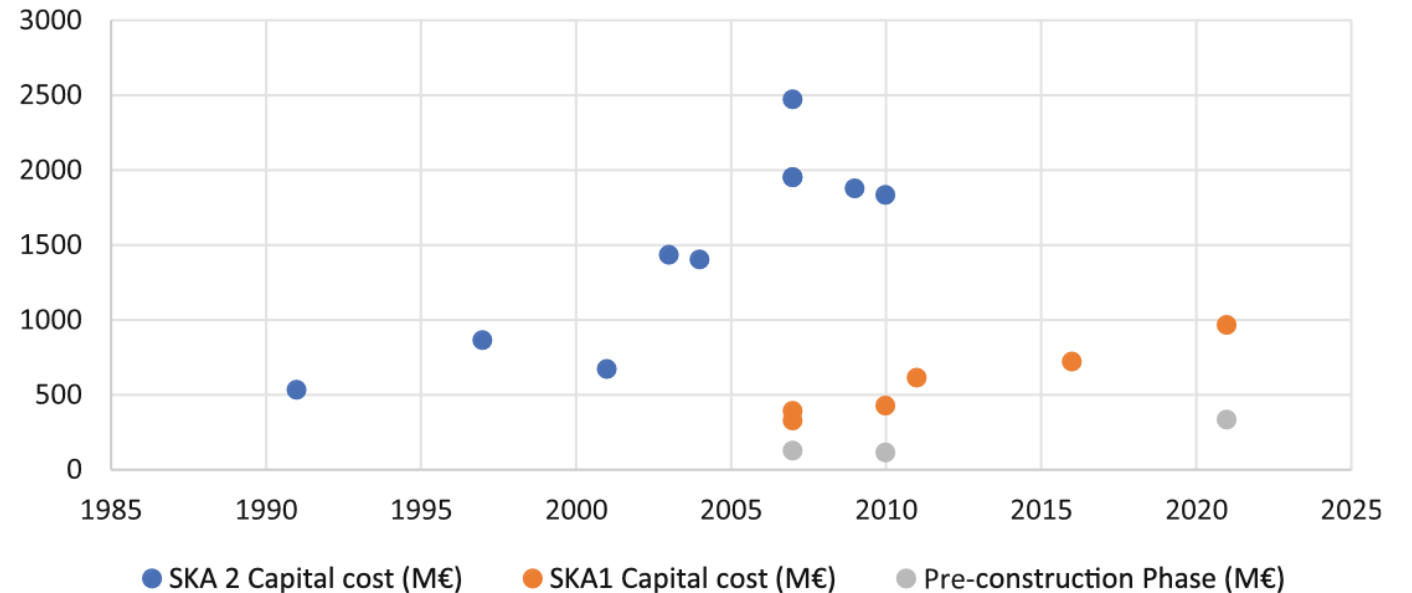
A very human story

- Driven by **key individuals** -
Passion verging on the irrational.
Extreme resilience
- **Loss of innocence**: youthful
idealism gives way to pragmatism.
Everyone understands why – but still
feels a little sad



And yes I am still asked about ...

- 2012 Site selection
- Cost increases
- Involvement of ESO
- Involvement of USA



Final thoughts

- Every large scientific project faces a unique set of challenges
- But there are many lessons to be learned from SKA, and we hope that this book will be useful to those embarking on similar journeys
- There is a huge amount of work still to be done to make SKA the leading scientific instrument that it will be, but the project has already achieved more than many thought would ever be possible
- It has been a privilege and a pleasure to be involved

Good luck to you all!