

SKACH Consortium Overview

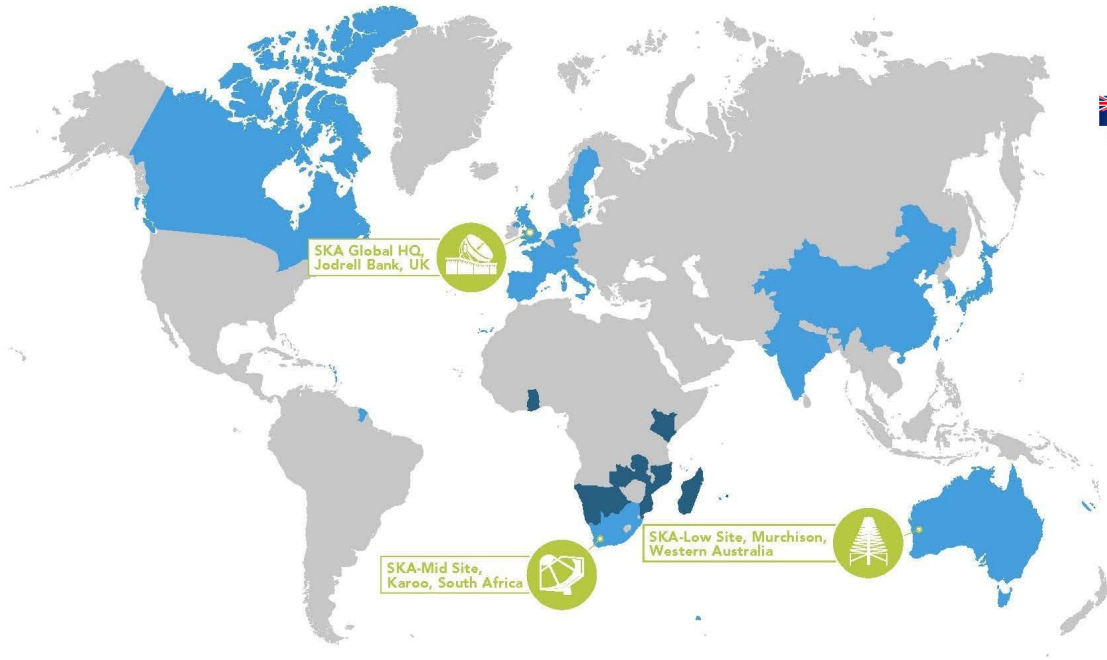
Carolyn Marie Crichton

January 22, 2024

Welcome to New Members!



About the SKAO



SKAO Member States:



Accession negotiations:



Interim agreements:



Early stages:



African Partner



Switzerland's Contribution



Vision

Further Swiss leadership in the global radio astronomy community.

Mission

Ensure meaningful contributions to the SKAO and SRCs through the development and delivery of cutting-edge Swiss solutions to key science goals, big data research, technology, and services.

- On January 19, 2022, Switzerland became the first country to join the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) founding members by acceding to the SKAO Convention. **The two year anniversary was last Friday!**
- SKACH is entering its 4th year and final year of this round of SERI Funding.
- SKACH has joined efforts on:
 - Several SKAO Science Working Groups
 - SRCs
 - Co-design
 - Pipeline Tool Development
 - Simulations
 - Imaging
 - Mid-band 6 Development
 - SKA-Low
 - **And More...**

About SKACH



SKACH is a strong consortium of 10 research institutions: Centro Svizzero di Calcolo Scientifico (CSCS), Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich (ETHZ), Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW), Haute École spécialisée de Suisse Occidentale (HES-SO), International Space Science Institute Bern (ISSI-Bern), Universität Basel (UniBAS), Université de Genève (UniGE), Universität Zürich (UZH), and Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften (ZHAW). SKACH is primarily funded by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). Work within the consortium also leverages funding from external grants such as AstroSignals SINERGIA, SNF Bilateral, PASC, InnoSuisse, and Horizon Europe. SKACH reports to each of these grants as outlined in their funding agreement.



Consortium Organization: Board



The SKACH Board is comprised of one voting member from each institution and is ultimately responsible for managing SKAO related activities in Switzerland funded by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

Chair: Ms. Carolyn Marie Crichton

Co-Chair: Mr. Stefan Kögl

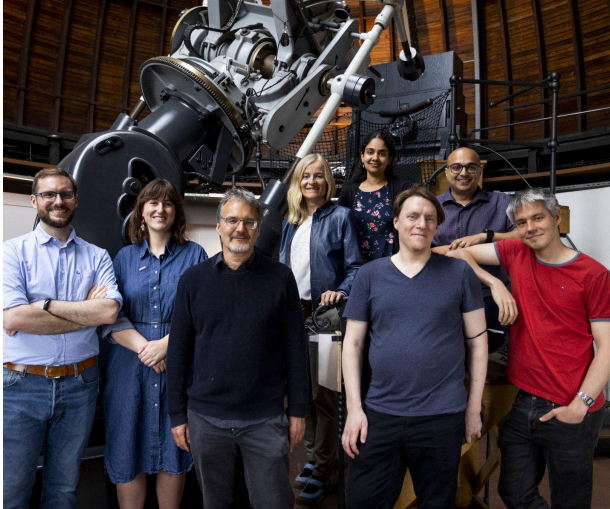
Voting Members

- Prof. André Csillaghy (FHNW)
- Prof. Alexandre Refregier (ETHZ)
- Prof. Daniel Schaerer (UniGe)
- Dr. Elena Gavagnin (ZHAW)
- Dr. Evelina Breschi (HES-SO)
- Prof. Florina Ciorba (UniBas)
- Prof. Jean-Paul Kneib (EPFL)
- Prof. Lucio Mayer (UZH)
- Dr. Mark Sargent (ISSI)
- Mr. Pablo Fernandez (CSCS)

Observer: Susanne Wampfler (UniBern)

The SKACH Board. **Left to Right: Top:** Daniel Schaerer, Jean-Paul Kneib, Florina Ciorba, Evelina Breschi, Elena Gavagnin, Carolyn Marie Crichton **Bottom:** André Csillaghy, Alexandre Refregier, Stefan Kögl, Lucio Mayer, Pablo Fernandez

Consortium Organization: Programs



A subset of SKACH Chairs and Co-Chairs. **Left to Right: Top:** Miroslava Dessauges, Hamsa Padmanabhan, Victor Holanda
Bottom: Devin Crichton, Emma Tolley, Dominique Bovey, Darren Reed, Simon Felix

Science Program: Coordinate and report on the activities of the SKAO portion of the AstroSignals grant and as outlined in the SERI grant. SNF Bilateral Grants in the planning phase.

Chair: Miroslava Dessauges (UniGe)
Co-Chairs: D. Crichton

Data Science Program: Coordinate and report on the Data Science activities as outlined in the SERI grant and PASC grant. Future InnoSuisse grant, Horizon Europe and SKAO Grant in planning phase.

Chair: Emma Tolley (EPFL)
Co-Chair: Simon Felix (FHNW)

Computing Platforms and Infrastructure: Coordinate and report on computing activities as outlined in the SERI grant, PASC, and measure 4 grant.

Chair: Victor Holanda (CSCS)
Co-Chair: Darren Reed (UZH)

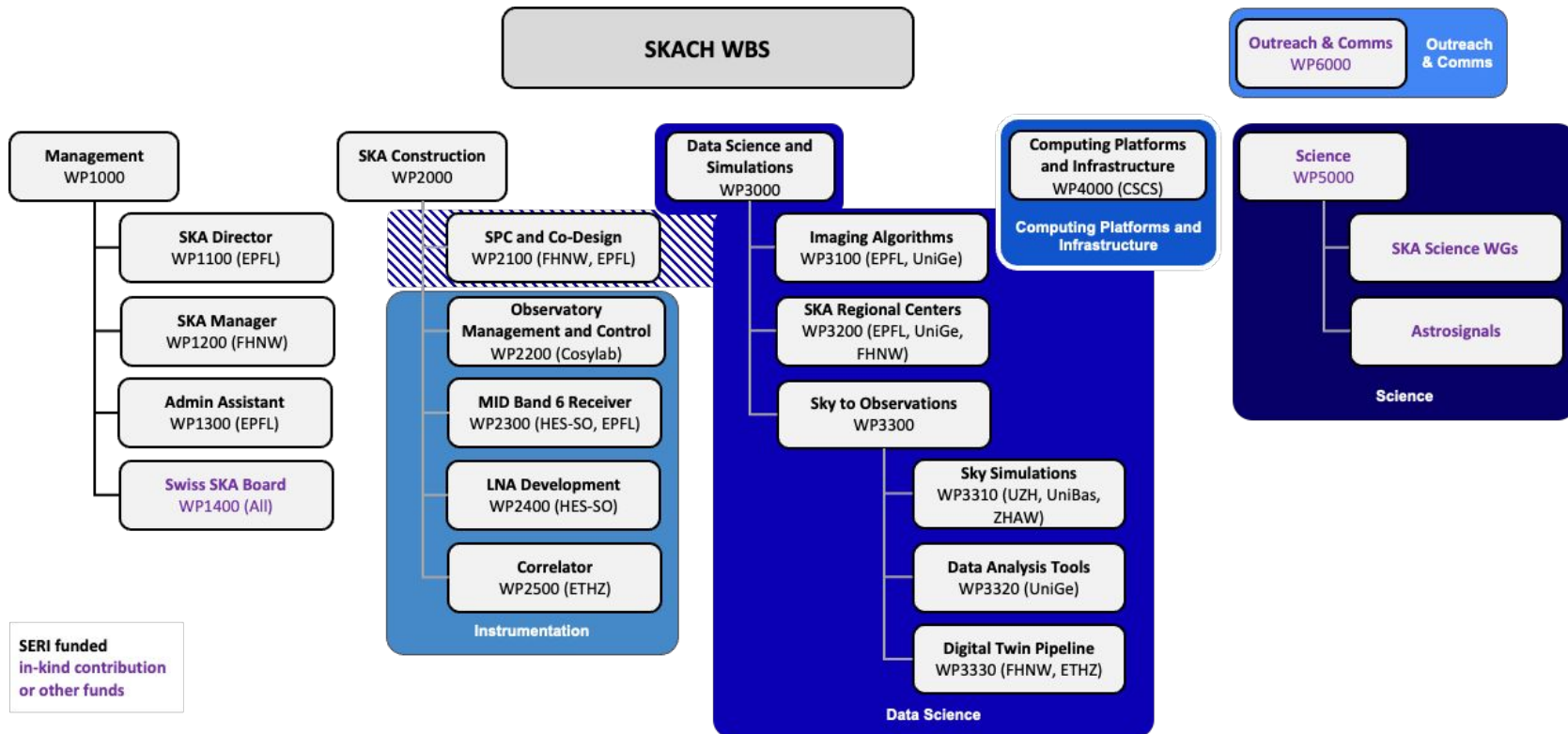
Instrumentation: Coordinate and report on the instrumentation activities as outlined in the SERI grant. Future InnoSuisse grant, Horizon Europe and SKAO Grant in planning.

Chair: Dominique Bovey (HES-SO)
Co-Chair: Gilles Feusier (EPFL)

Outreach & Comms: Coordinate and report on Outreach and Communications activities as outlined in the SERI grant.

Chair: Stephanie Parker (EPFL)
Co-Chair: Hamsa Padmanabhan (UniGe)

2021 - 2024 Work Packages



Progress of the SKACH Consortium



Year 1:

We started to form as a consortium

- Submitted proposal for SERI to fund the consortium for the SKAO
- EPFL signed agreement and received funds from SERI
- First meetings of the consortium board
- Hiring of personnel began



Year 2:

We continued to form as a consortium

- Switzerland officially joined the SKAO
- Monthly meetings of the consortium board
- Weekly meetings for the consortium
- Consortium branding
- Kick-off of SKACH programs and reporting
- Attendance to SKAO council
- International collaboration



Year 3:

Reflection and adjustments of consortium structures. We are also using this information to plan for the next round of SERI Funding

- Continuing board and weekly meetings
- Increased regular meetings for work packages (simulations, SRCs)
- 2025 + consortium planning
- Increased participation in international groups
- Preliminary results



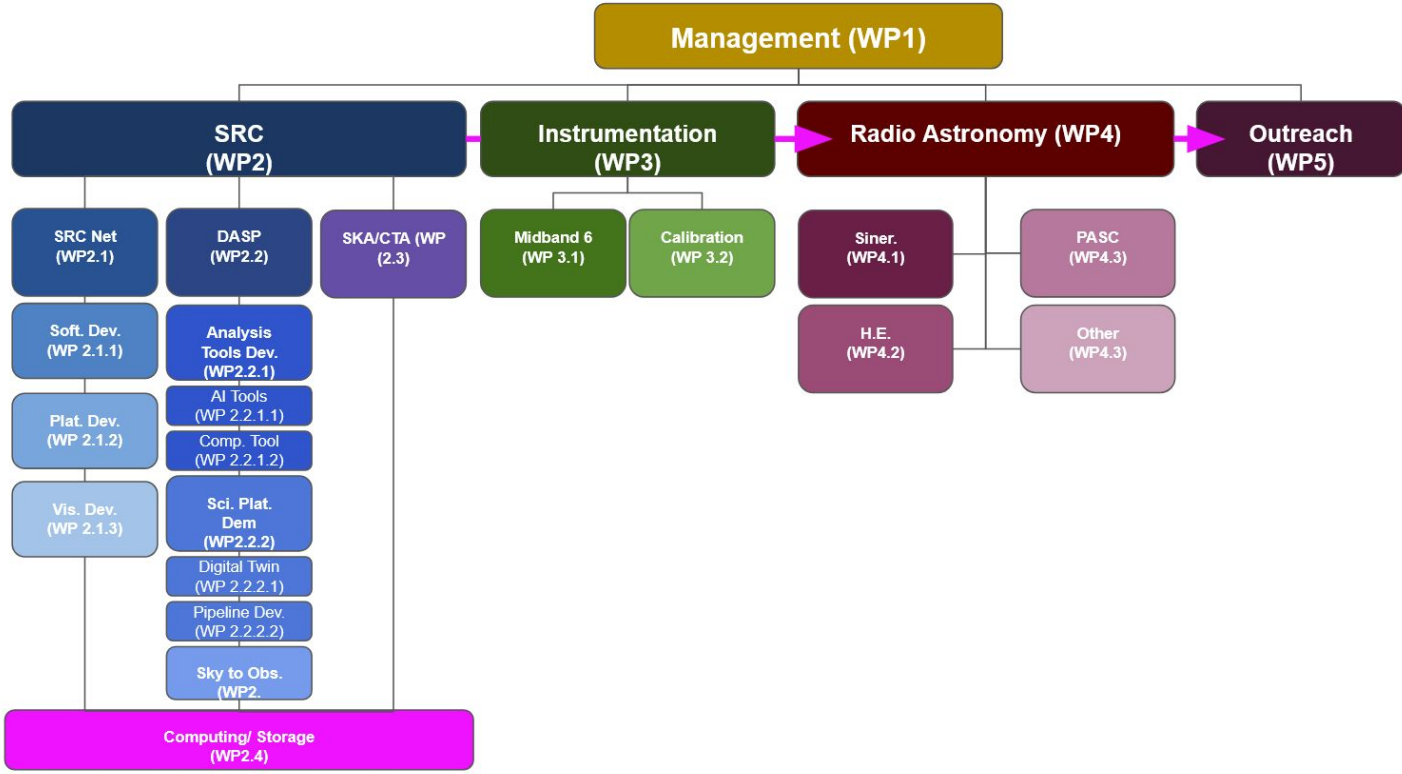
Year 4:

We expect to see strongly formed collaborations and results from this first round of consortium funding.

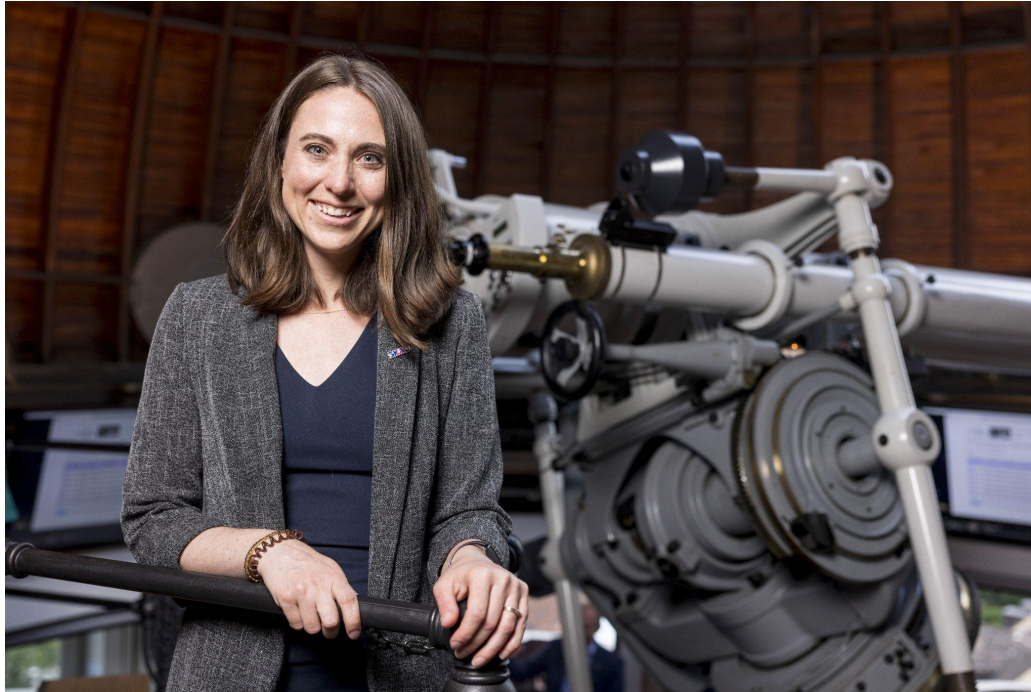
- Continuation and adjustment of consortium structures
- Final results of the first round of consortium funding
- Reflection of SKACH Activities
- Preparation for next round of activities



Looking Forward: 2021 - 2024 Work Packages



Contact Me:



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