

Discussion notes about the SRCs and SKACH during the Winter 24 SKACH days

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During the discussion session about SRCs and SKACH at the Winter 24 SKACH days, participants raised questions and exchanged views on various aspects of SRC activities and collaboration with SKACH. There is interest in contributing to the 10-page SRCSC document, which summarizes the development plans of this giant system. This is currently written by our SRCSC representative, but it should be emphasized that it is confidential and focuses on political aspects, giving the basis for Council to decide on the way forward. Nevertheless, Switzerland collaborates already extensively with SKAO and SRCNet. Specifically, we participate in some of the SAFe Teams, The importance of giving visibility to national SRC initiatives for potential reuse by other SRCs was highlighted.

Further discussion ensued regarding the prioritization of different observing modes within SRC roadmaps. Concerns were raised about the consideration of complex observations and their prioritization. It was explained that the SRCNet Minimum Viable Product (MVP) focuses on fundamental services required by all use cases and is currently science-agnostic, with future versions planned to accommodate specific observing modes.

The importance of defining the MVP was emphasized, as it is shaping the SRCNet. Therefore, there should be clarity on observing modes and data products. It was clarified that the MVP focuses on essential services like data management and computing API, required by all use cases. It was suggested to organize features in tiers and provide clarity on data products, including calibration. It was explained that the SDP (Science Data Processor) would handle calibration and the most expensive processing, with the results sent to SRC.

Interest was expressed in multi-epoch science and stacking, highlighting the need for adaptable processing. The openness to flexible pipelines on the SDP was mentioned, with opportunities for additional processing pipelines. It was proposed to allow direct code execution on the SDP. Insights into ongoing pipeline development and co-design efforts was provided (this effort is led by the UK and the Netherlands).

The importance of Swiss SRC involvement in calibration and science verification data was emphasized, alongside a focus on comparisons with classical algorithms. The discussion concluded with hopes for clearer feedback from SKAO/SDP on addressing science needs effectively.