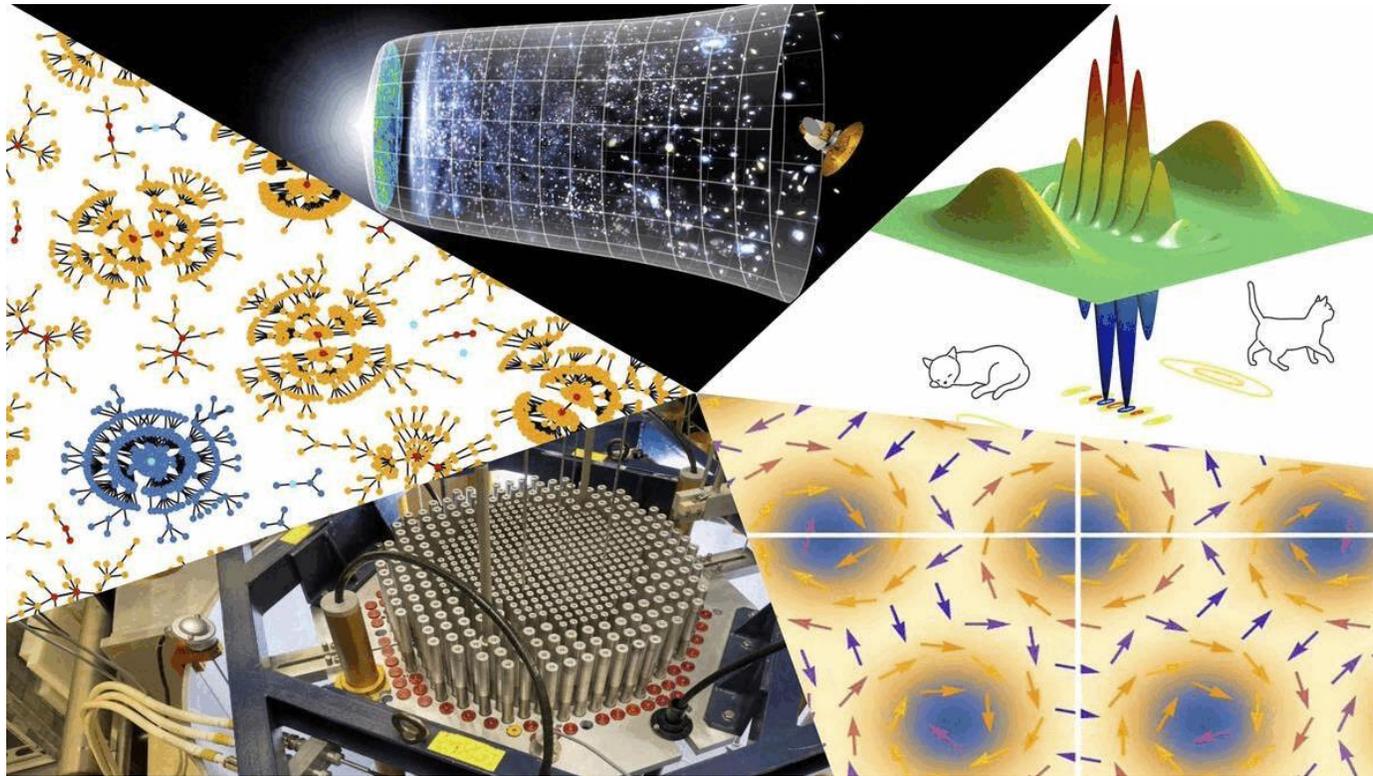

2026 JAN 26-27: SKACH WINTER MEETING

WELCOME !



Nomination

- From April 1st, 2026 and for 4 years
 - Jean-Paul Kneib is nominated Director of the Institute of Physics @EPFL



SKAO News

- 2026 corresponds roughly to the middle year of the construction period.
 - First image from SKA-Low, which is moving towards AA1.
 - Poor reliability of LNA, many will have to be changed ...
 - First fringes from SKA-Mid en route to AA0.5.
 - In the last 6-months the total cost of construction increased by ~100 Meuros, mitigation decisions have been taken to keep budget equilibrium: descope/delay of the AA* SKA-LOW (2030+), delay of SKA-MID (=> 2032)
 - Discussions started for the next SKAO funding period: 2031-2040
 - Some countries are moving the SRC funding in their SKAO contributions (NL, Canada ...)
 - *Important for CH to move also in this direction to ensure Swiss SKAO science return*
 - Long-term threats on spectrum from LEO satellite constellations
-

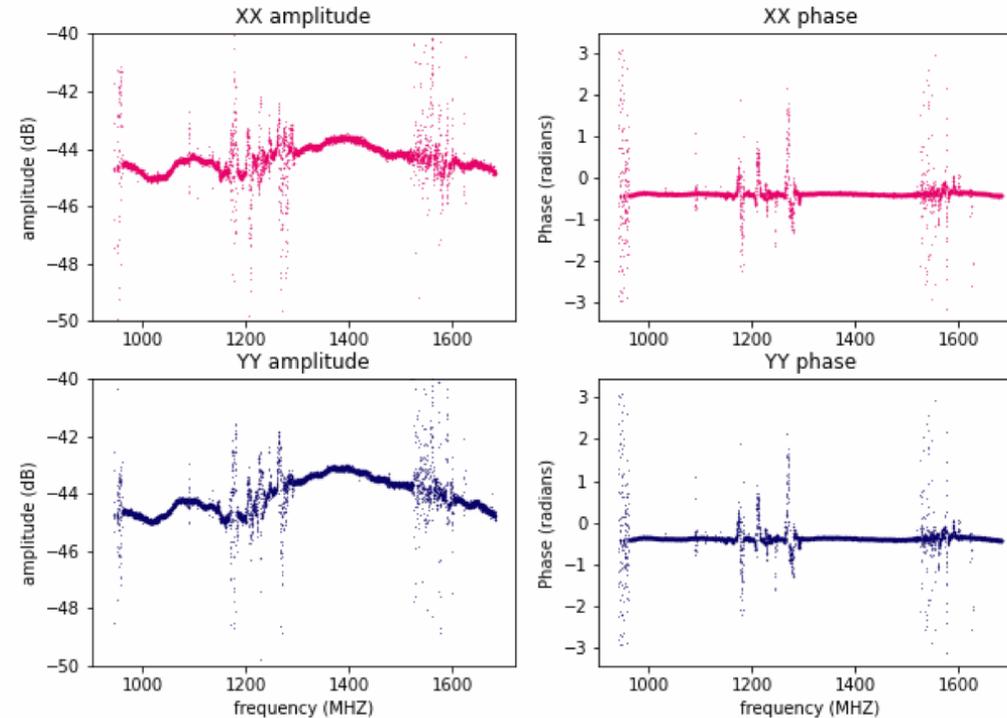
First fringes with SKA-Mid!

SKA-Mid is working!

Fringe to PKS J1939-6342
(PKS B1934-638)

- Bright, isolated, compact source
- Expect flat phases for a compact, isolated source all emission is at the centre
- That's what we see!

Cross-correlation amplitude and phase plot for pb-ska001demo-20251205-100108 - 2025-12-05T10:04:35UT



SKA-Low status

- ~18,000 installed antennas → 69 stations
- All trenching finished (except Kalli)
- Kalli: ~3km of 36km trenching done
- Central Processing Facility building: cladding installed; rack installation on track
- Temporary Power Plant at the Central Power Station is online
- Awaiting notification of Host Country Deliverable business plans.



Funding perspectives

- SERI SKACH Funding
 - Entering 2nd year of SERI funding period 2025-2028
 - Time to start planning the 2029-2032 period (start of discussion with SERI)
 - SNF-FLARE
 - Over-subscription by ESO-ELT projects – not a good sign for the next 6-years
 - SNF-Collaborative Project
 - Astrosignals-2 pending selection expected end of March
 - SNF-overall
 - 10% budget cut in 2026 and 2027
 - Measures to limit the number of proposals ...
 - Important to check-out any other alternative funding (Swiss AI, InnoSuisse, Foundations ...)
 - ERC
 - New scheme ERC Plus (7 Meuros over 4 to 7 years), 30 grants per year - expect 1 or 2 in astro
 - FP10
 - Major increase from 95.5 to 175 B.Euros for the 2028-2034
 - ERC budget will double
 - *SchmidtScience funding ...*
-

Schmidt Science



About Focus Areas News & Resources



<https://www.schmidtsiences.org/schmidt-observatory-system/>

Key dates for 2026

- <https://www.skao.int/en/science-users/670/newsletters-and-webinars>
 - 2026 Feb 9-12: Asia-Pacific SKA Workshop (Thailand)
 - **2026 March 16-20: Cosmology in the Alps**
 - 2026 March 23-25: SKAO Council @ASTRON
 - **2026 March 31-April 1: AI+Astronomy meeting @EPFL**
 - <https://indico.epfl.ch/event/11/overview>
 - 2026 May: Jessica Dempsey is starting her new role as SKAO DG
 - 2026 May 4-8: Asia-Pacific Regional IAU Meeting (Hong Kong)
 - **2026 June 29-July 3: EAS at EPFL/STCC with SKAO sessions (Abstract submission opens in February):** <https://eas.unige.ch/EAS2026/>
 - 2026 July 8-9: SKAO Council @HQ
 - **2026 Aug 31- Sept 2: Swiss SKA Days @ Neuchatel**
 - 2026 Nov 16-18: SKAO Council @SoutAfrica or HQ because of budget
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LOOKING FORWARD FOR SKACH STATUS UPDATE !

2026 JAN 26-27: SKACH WINTER MEETING

Enjoy !!!