



United Nations
Office for Outer Space Affairs

SKAO

Status of the Dark & Quiet Skies initiative

Federico Di Vruno
SKAO

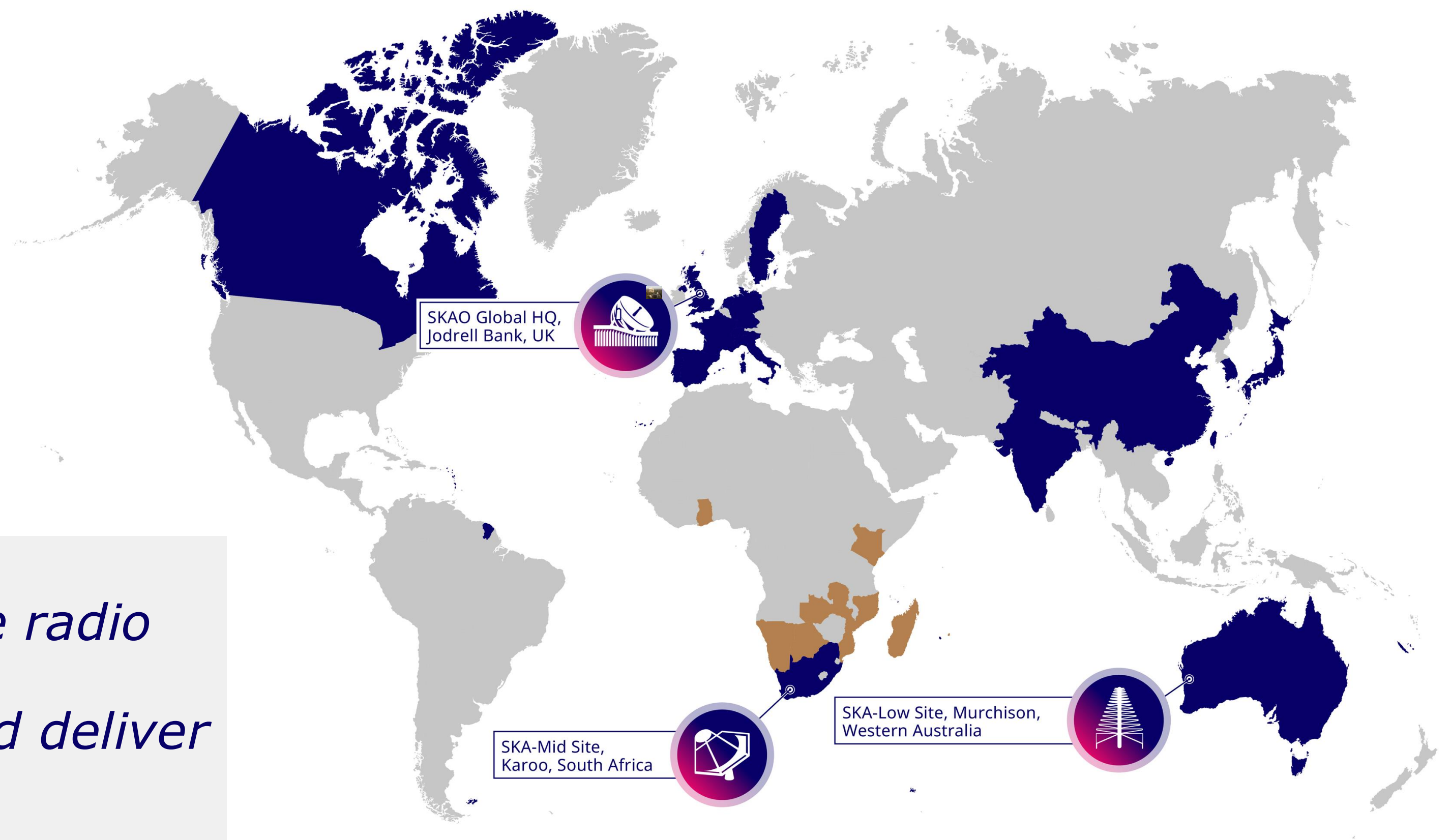
9-11 December 2025



United Nations
Office for Outer Space Affairs

The SKAO

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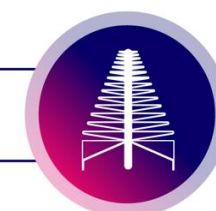
SKAO Global HQ,
Jodrell Bank, UK



SKA-Mid Site,
Karoo, South Africa

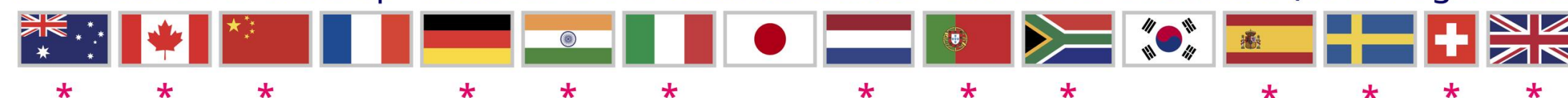


SKA-Low Site, Murchison,
Western Australia



Mission:
To build and operate cutting-edge radio telescopes to transform our understanding of the Universe and deliver benefits to society through global collaboration and innovation.

SKAO Partnership - includes SKAO Member States* and SKAO Observers (as of August 2025)



* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

African Partner Countries



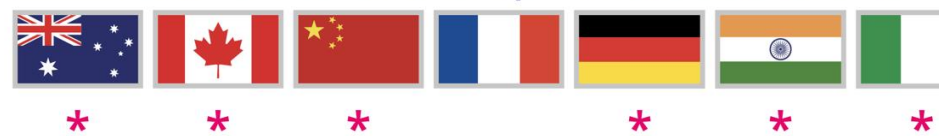
One Observatory, three sites

HQ

Jodrell Bank, Manchester UK

UN ESCO world heritage site

SKAO Partnership - includes SKAO M



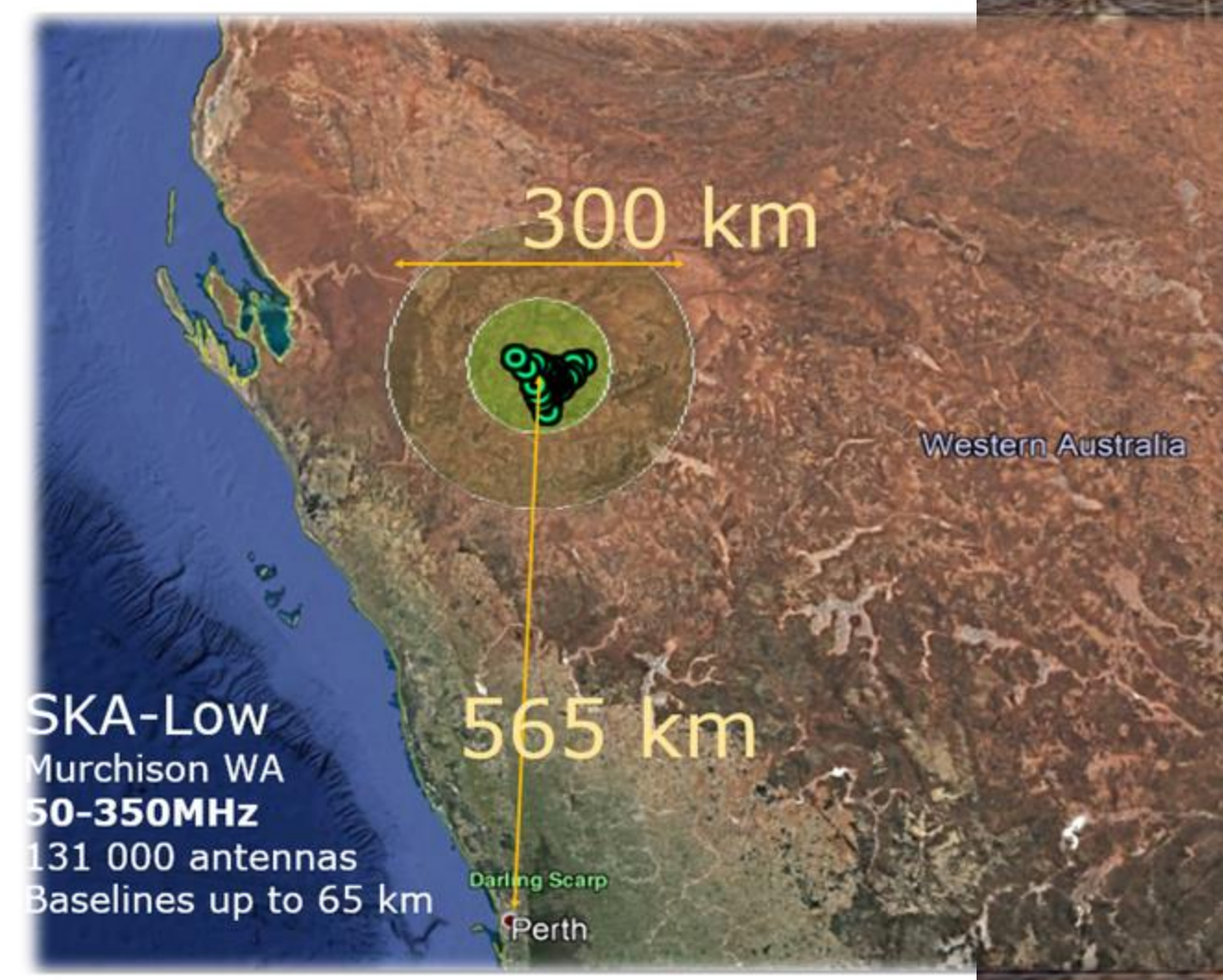
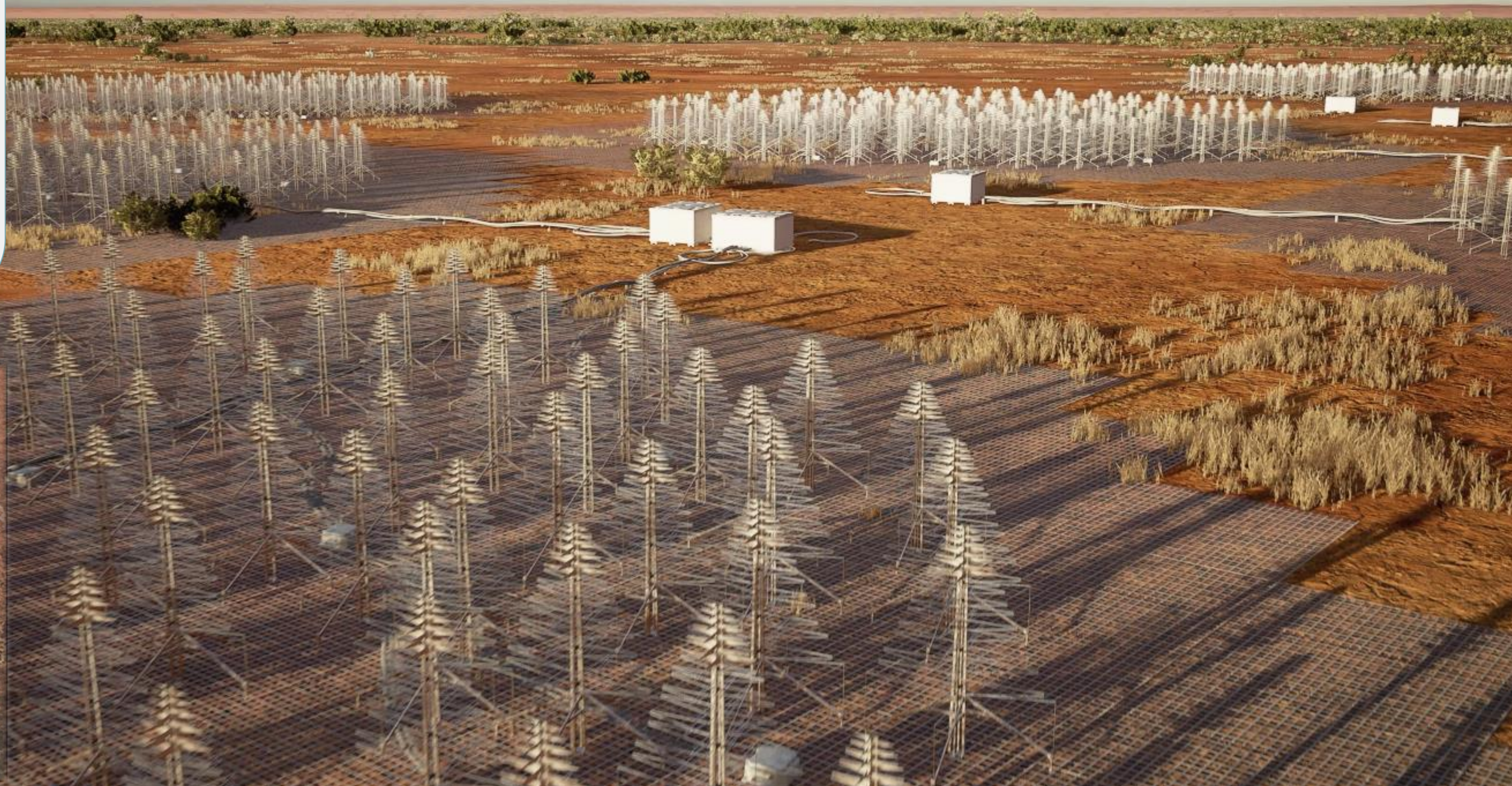
SKA-Low

Western Australia

131,072 antennas

75km max baseline

50 – 350 MHz





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131,072 antennas

75km max baseline

50 – 350 MHz



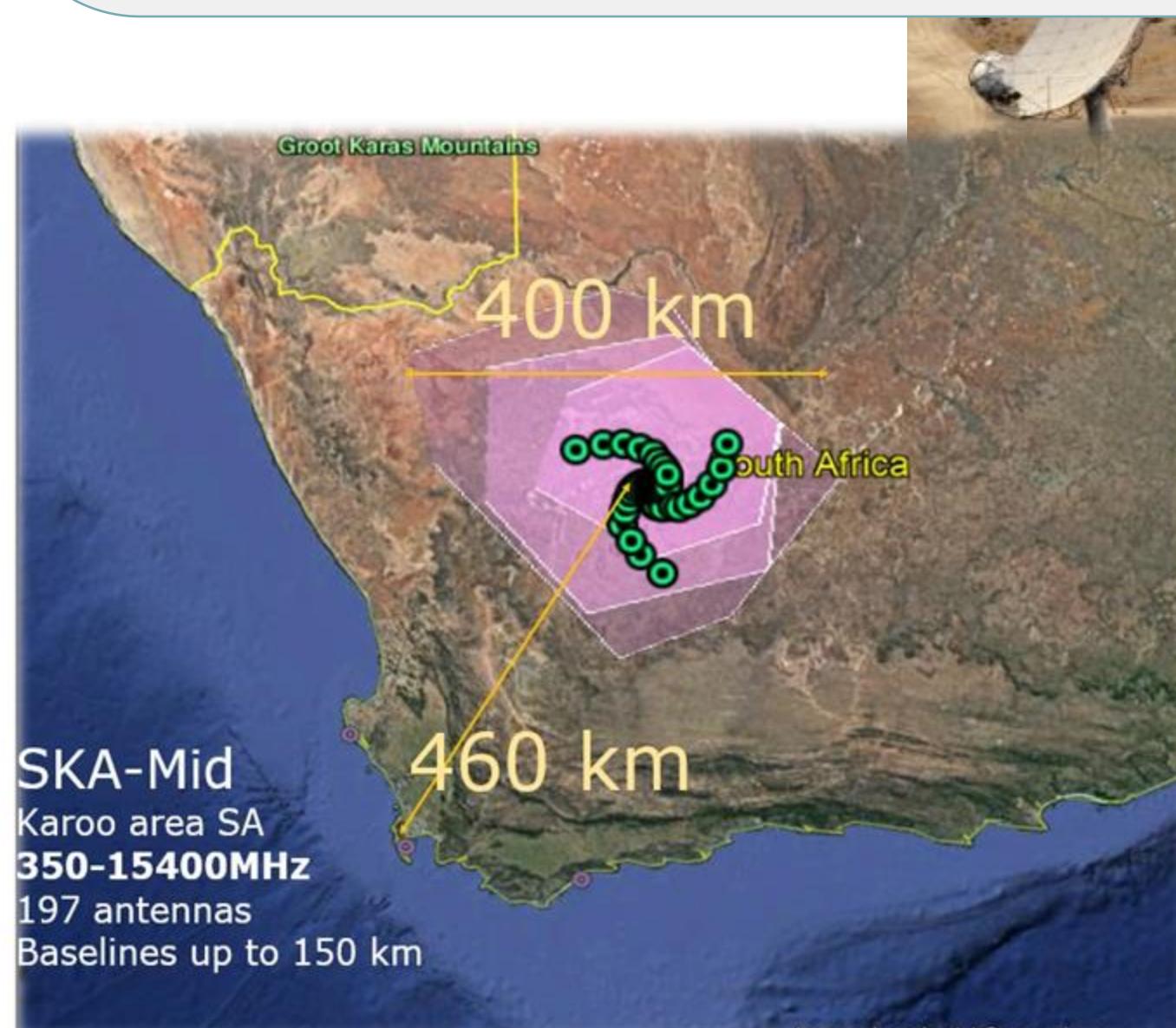
SKA-Mid

South Africa, Northern Cape

197 dishes

150km max baseline

350 MHz – 15.4 GHz





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SKA-Mid

South Africa, Northern

197 dishes

150km max baseline

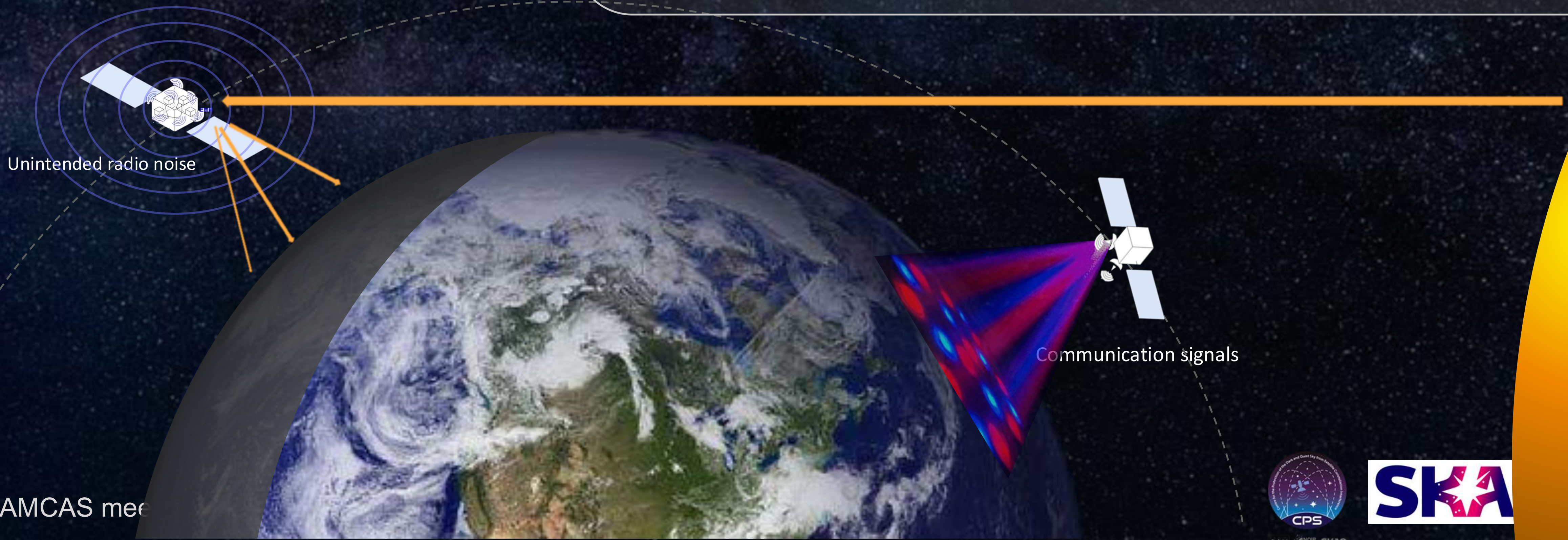
350 MHz – 15.4 GHz

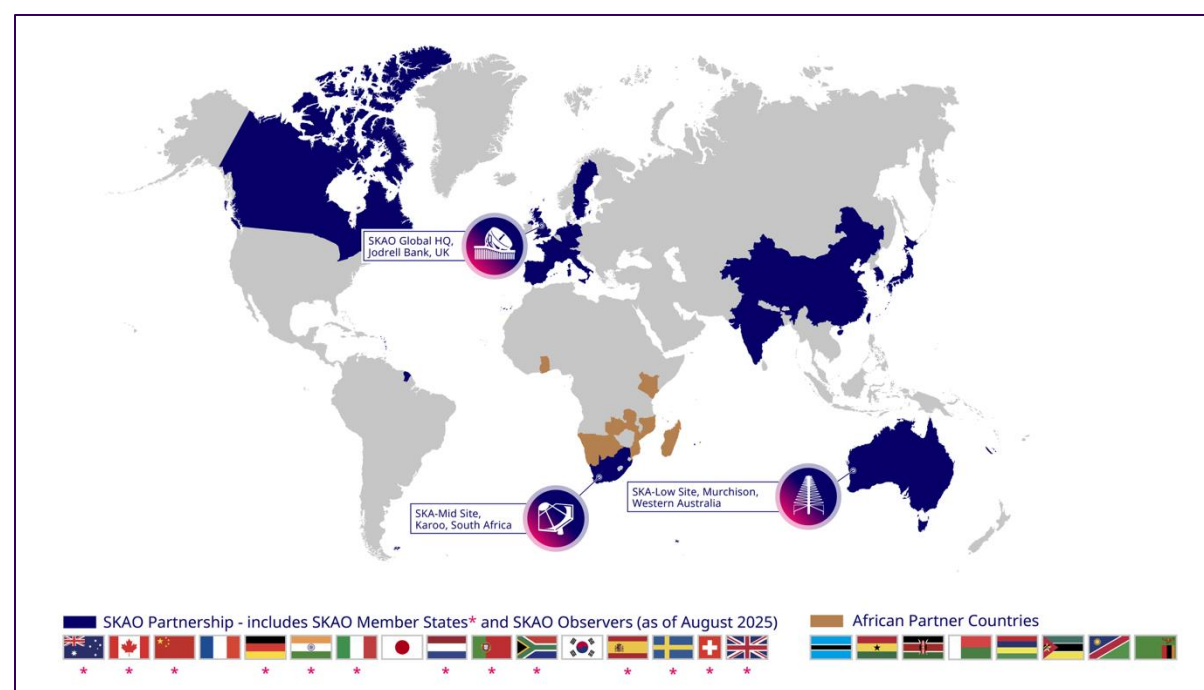


Dark and Quiet Skies

Effects of Satellite Constellations:

- Radio emissions (downlinks)
- Unintentional Electromagnetic Radiation (radio noise)
- Reflection of sunlight towards Earth

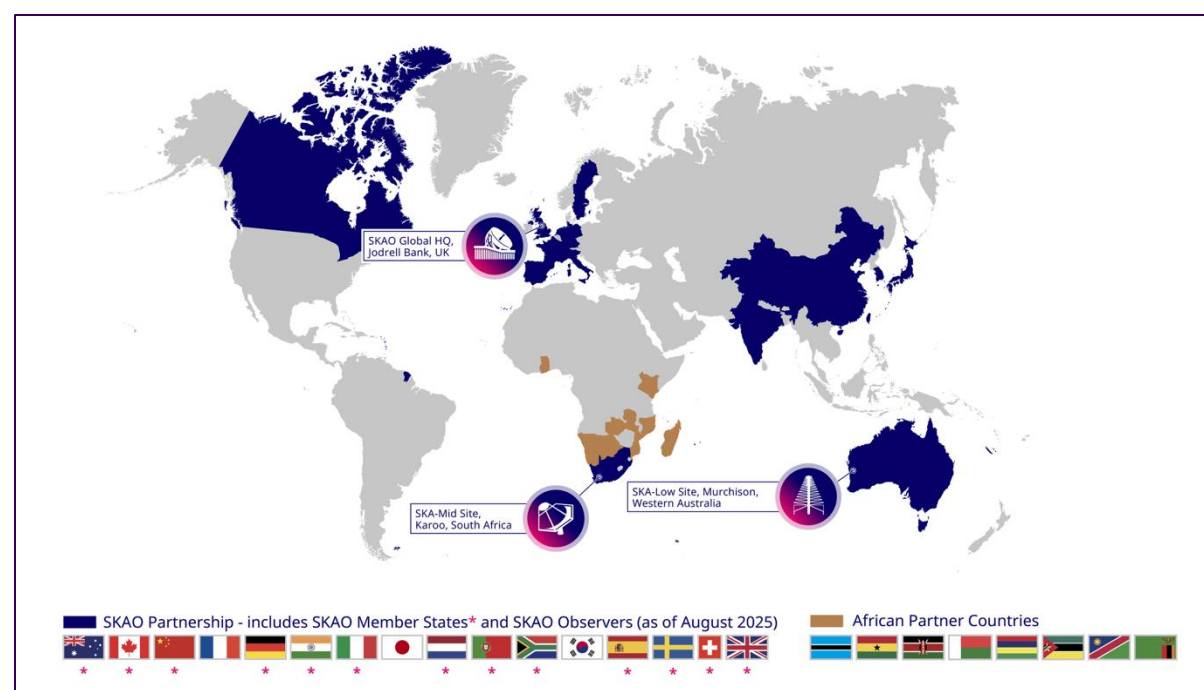




Member
states'
support



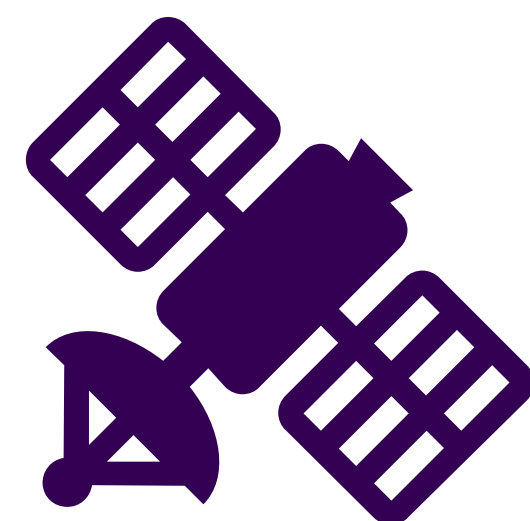
Sector member
(2015)



Member
states'
support



Sector member
(2015)



Direct interactions
with Industry
(2019)



Permanent observer
(2021)



Founding Partner
(2022)



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Making history in D&QS

SKAO



Drafting of the agenda item title

UN COPUOS - June 2023



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*Let's find ways to share
the skies together...*

#DARKANDQUIETSKIESFORSCIENCEANDSOCIETY