

The experience of commissioning ASKAP

The Australian SKA Pathfinder is a precursor telescope designed specifically for surveys. It has a wide field of view and rapid survey speed as a result of phased array feed technology. The telescope became fully operational this year and is located at Australia's SKA site, the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory. We are currently conducting pilot surveys that demonstrate the capability of the telescope and provide science teams with an opportunity to assess data quality. Many challenges were encountered during the construction and commissioning process and these will be summarised in the context of the SKA project. Key themes include maintaining active engagement with astronomers and the value of conducting early science projects to thoroughly test hardware, firmware and software during construction.

Suggested duration

30 min

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