

SKACH Consortium Overview and Update

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About SKACH



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- **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.
- SKACH was founded to manage the Swiss contribution and strategic direction as a member of the SKAO
- There are currently 9 member institutions (CSCS, EPFL, ETHZ, FHNW, HES-SO, UniBAS, UniGE, UZH, and ZHAW), and over 80 individuals involved in SKACH related work. This interdisciplinary group is made up of scientists, data scientists, engineers, project managers, outreach professionals, administrators, and students!
- SKACH is primarily funded by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), and leverages funding from external grants such as AstroSignals SINERGIA, SNF Bilateral, PASC, InnoSuisse, and Horizon Europe.

Mission and Vision:

Vision

Further Swiss leadership in the global radio astronomy community.

Mission

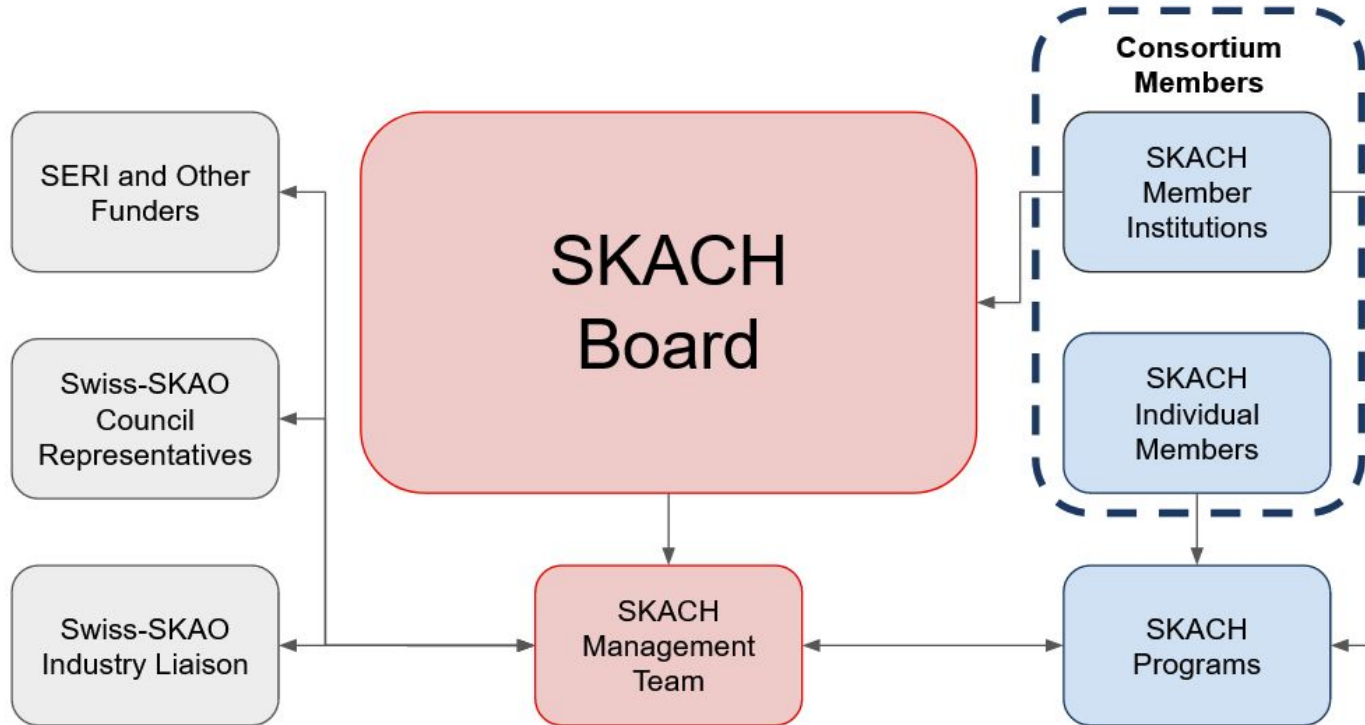
Ensure meaningful contributions to the SKAO and SRCs through the development and delivery of cutting-edge Swiss solutions to key science goals, big data research, technology, and services.

Objectives

Advance Switzerland's impact in the SKAO and SRCs through:

- Creating synergies between Swiss government, academia, and industry.
- Engaging in leading-edge scientific research.
- Providing Swiss solutions to SKAO and SRC big data and hardware challenges.
- Competing for national and international funding for the Swiss Components of the SKAO and SRCs.
- Ensuring returned value for money for the Swiss economic contributions to the SKAO and SRCs.
- Fostering connections with other precursor radio astronomy facilities.

Consortium Organization

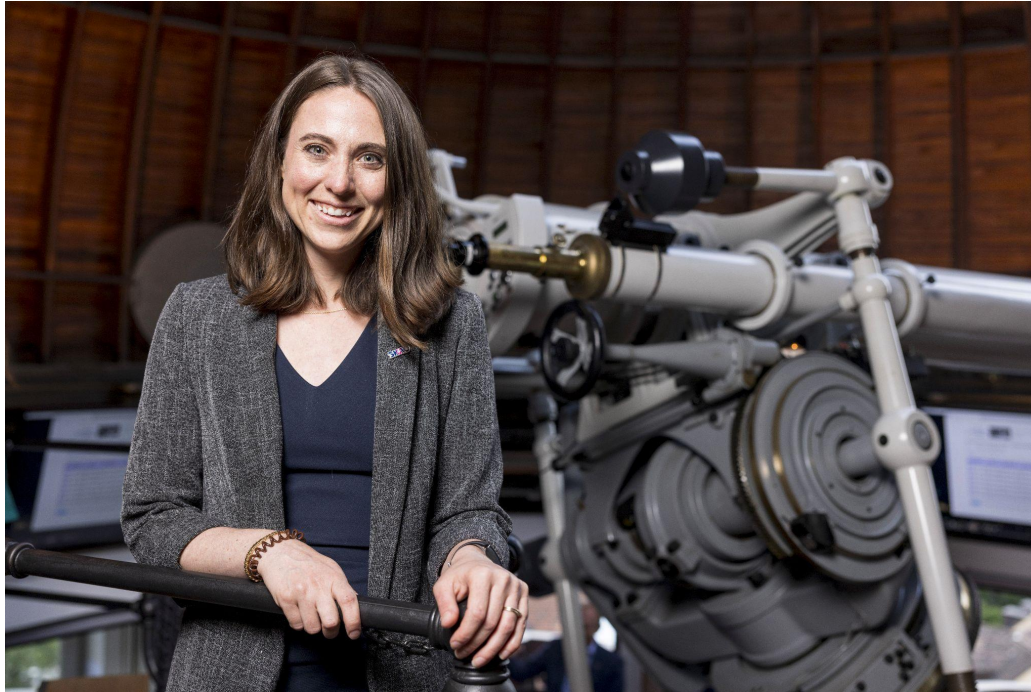


2022 Milestones



- SKACH was founded (meets monthly) and the governance structure was formed (including programs)! Consortium meetings are on Fridays at 3pm.
- The SKACH Scientific Delegate to the SKAO Council was appointed!
- The process for allocating CSCS resources to SKACH was defined!
- SKACH was branded including Naming and Logo!
- The SKACH website and Social Media Platforms were launched!
- SKACH held it's Spring Consortium Meeting!
- SKACH officially launched on an international stage at the WEF!
- SKACH formed a partnership with the IAU for Dark and Quiet Skies to gather the opinion of Swiss Stakeholders!
- SKACH was awarded a Radio Blocks Grant for work on Mid-band 6!
- SKA-Days in person with 100+ participants!

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