

SOUTH AFRICAN RESEARCH CHAIRS INITIATIVE (SARChI)

Call for pre-proposals for South African Research Chairs to be awarded to candidates undertaking research relevant to the South African Square Kilometre Array – 2010/11

The National Research Foundation (NRF) is calling for pre-proposals for South African Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Research Chairs under the SARChI banner. The closing date for pre-proposals is **30 September 2009**. A briefing session will take place on **19 August 2009 at the South African SKA Offices in Rosebank, Johannesburg from 10:00 -12:30**

NOTE: The institution is not required to have identified a specific candidate for the Research Chair prior to the submission of the pre-proposal. The institution (and not a Research Chair candidate) is required to draft and submit the pre-proposal for review. The award of a Research Chair can be made to an institution in the absence of a candidate. However, no funds will be transferred to the institution until the Research Chair candidate has been identified by the institution, approved by the NRF/DST and has accepted the position.

The Call is open to all publicly funded Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that can demonstrate capacity and interest to:

- Undertake and manage SKA and MeerKAT related research projects and/or research projects which utilise multi-wavelength data; and
- Develop one or more of the following research fields pertinent to SKA and/or MeerKAT:
 - Observational radio astronomy;
 - Observational multi-wavelength astronomy;
 - Radio astronomy instrumentation, specializing in one or more of the following:
 - Digital signal processing;
 - Distributed data processing;
 - RF broadband feeds, receivers and cryogenic packages; and/or
 - EMC and EMI.

Joint funding between the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the NRF and the South African SKA Project has been provided for five Chairs that will be supported for fifteen years (i.e. three cycles of five years renewable subject to performance).

The Research Chairs are intended to:

- i. Attract established researchers from abroad and nationally and/or to retain those already in the South African Higher Education system, in order

- to train and supervise the next generation of highly skilled researchers and supervisors in the above research fields; and
- ii. Increase the number of specialists in the Higher Education system in research fields that are important to the SKA and MeerKAT.

The appointed candidates will be expected to lead the development of significant research and supervisory capacity in areas of research which are of direct interest to the MeerKAT and SKA and/or to solving key problems of astronomy using observational data at several wave-lengths.

Forms and instructions for applying are available online:

<http://www.nrf.ac.za/sarchi/>

Should you require assistance or require further clarity please contact:

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