

Dear Research Directors, Administrators and Colleagues

Invitation to a SARChI Briefing session for the roll-out of five Square Kilometre Array Research Chairs 2010/11

The South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) is an intervention by the government of South Africa, led by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the National Research Foundation (NRF). It is designed to significantly expand the country's scientific research base in a way that is relevant to national development and in support of making South Africa an internationally competitive global knowledge economy.

The joint funding between the DST and the South African Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project has provided for five Chairs that will be supported for 15 years (i.e. three cycles of five years, renewable subject to performance).

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.

The NRF invites you to attend the SARChI SKA Chairs roll-out briefing session which will be held at the **SKA Offices, First Floor, 17 Baker Street, Rosebank, Johannesburg, on 19 August 2009**. The aim of the session is to address representatives from Institutions of Higher Education on the approaching roll-out of new SKA Research Chairs in 2010/11 and to present details on the nature and the strategic priority areas of these Chairs.

All the relevant information on the roll-out is now available on the SARChI website (www.nrf.ac.za/sarchi) and will also be made available to the institutional Research Offices.

Attached to this invitation is the agenda for the briefing session.

Please confirm your attendance to Pamela Mteto at Pamela@nrf.ac.za on or before **14 August 2009**.

Yours sincerely,
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