

Arrangement
between
the Australian Government
and
the New Zealand Government
on
a Joint Bid to Secure the Siting of the Square Kilometre Array in
Australia and New Zealand

The Australian Government and the New Zealand Government
("the Governments"):

Noting that the Square Kilometre Array radio telescope (SKA) is a planned, very large-scale, next generation radio telescope being developed by scientists from more than 50 institutions across 19 countries, for construction by an international consortium of funding partners over the period 2012-20;

Acknowledging that the Governments intend to work together to secure the siting of the SKA in Australia and New Zealand;

Recognising the existing Memorandum of Understanding on the SKA Project between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Western Australia, and any other subsequent Memorandum(s) of Understanding on the SKA between the Commonwealth of Australia and its States and Territories;

Desiring to provide a basis for the Governments to work together towards a successful joint Australia/New Zealand SKA bid ("the joint bid").

Have reached the following understandings:

1. Objectives

1.1 The objectives of this Arrangement are to:

- a. establish governance mechanisms to underpin and advance the joint bid;
- b. facilitate the participation of the Government of New Zealand, and relevant institutions of New Zealand, in the SKA related initiatives of the Australian Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments including the Australian SKA Pathfinder project and the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research; and
- c. provide for the inclusion of the Government of New Zealand, and relevant institutions in New Zealand, in the existing Australian SKA Coordination Committee (ASCC), to be renamed the Australia/New Zealand SKA Coordination Committee (ANZSCC); and its associated advisory and working group structure.

1.2 The overall objectives of the Governments are to:

- a. develop a scientifically optimum trans-Tasman site configuration for the SKA as the basis for the joint bid;
- b. work together in securing mutually acceptable provisions for the siting of the SKA in Australia and New Zealand;
- c. explore mutually beneficial opportunities to develop Australasian capability in SKA-related radio astronomy, information and communications technology (ICT), engineering, and other associated technologies; and

- d. support SKA-related industry development opportunities and promote the relevant capabilities of Australia and New Zealand industry internationally.

1.3 The ANZSCC will monitor progress against these objectives under its terms of reference.

2. Principles

2.1 The Governments, and their respective departments and agencies, will cooperate closely to achieve the objectives of this Arrangement. They will work together to present a consistent Australian/New Zealand position to the international SKA community. Any differences will be resolved through consultation in the ANZSCC.

2.2 Each Government will take the lead on those aspects of the project to which it is best suited in order to give effect to this Arrangement, as determined by the Governments.

2.3 The Governments will individually determine, following consultations, their respective financial, and any other, contributions to the joint bid, taking into account their capacities, the economic benefits, other forms of contribution, and any other relevant considerations.

2.4 The Governments will fairly acknowledge the contributions of each Government to SKA related activities.

2.5 The Governments will communicate promptly and effectively with each other on any differences or other concerns that arise in relation to matters covered by this Arrangement.

3. Tasks

3.1 To achieve the objectives identified in Section 1 of this Arrangement the Governments will cooperate on the following tasks:

- a. develop and establish to a mutually determined state of readiness, and, on a timeline consistent with the requirements of the international negotiations towards the SKA Phase 1 Implementation Agreement, a trans-Tasman configuration for the joint bid;
- b. work together expeditiously to determine the extent to which New Zealand may participate in and contribute to the Australian SKA Pathfinder (ASKAP) telescope, the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR) and other SKA-related activities;
- c. participate in the formulation and implementation of the ongoing communications and stakeholder management strategy for the SKA to promote Australia and New Zealand as the pre-eminent SKA site;
- d. work together in a range of international SKA processes and projects;
- e. develop and advance the joint bid; and
- f. any other tasks that the Governments mutually determine as necessary to achieve the objectives of this Arrangement.

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The primary coordination, advisory and recommendation-making body under this Arrangement is the ANZSCC, which will coordinate matters relating to Australia's and New Zealand's involvement in the SKA project.

4.2 In addition, the responsible Ministers in the Governments, or their representatives, will meet from time to time to advance the project, as needs require and circumstances permit.

5. Contributions by the Governments

5.1 Funding contributions for any matters which may arise relating to the Governments' roles and responsibilities will be as mutually determined by the Governments from time to time.

5.2 In addition to the above, the Governments will seek to have a jointly decided position on their respective conditional commitments before the international SKA site negotiations begin.

5.3 Neither Government, nor its agencies, will be bound to proceed with any phase of the SKA before that Government or the appropriate agency has formally authorised its participation.

6. Communication

6.1 The Governments, together and through the ANZSCC, will:

- a. cooperate to develop a communications strategy that can be used to promote Australia and New Zealand as the site of the SKA and as part of the joint bid;
- b. identify events and occasions, domestically and internationally, that can be used to advance the joint bid, and mutually decide on an approach to either participate in or to seek to host such events and occasions;
- c. consult with interested stakeholders to inform them of developments and seek feedback and comment on SKA developments; and
- d. decide on protocols for public communications and announcements, and ensure that the Governments receive balanced and fair acknowledgement of their contributions to the project.

7. Duration of the Arrangement

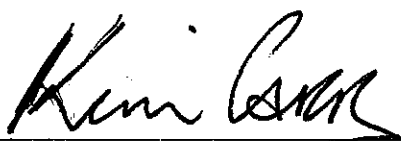
7.1 This Arrangement will come into effect on the date of latter signature of the Governments and will terminate on the date of the final international decision and official announcement of the SKA site, unless this Arrangement is replaced by a subsequent arrangement, or terminated earlier by either Government on three months written notice to the other Government.

8. Variation of the Arrangement

8.1 This Arrangement, including the objectives specified in paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2, may be varied by the written consent of the Governments.

Signed at Sydney, Australia on this 21st day of August, 2009,
in the English language

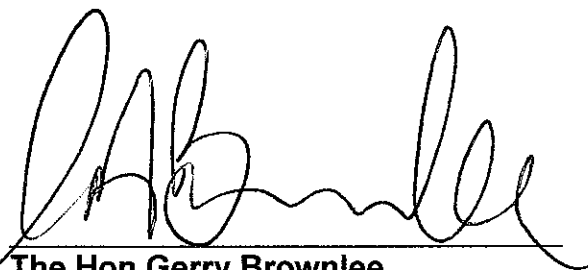
For and on behalf of the Australian
Government:



Senator the Hon Kim Carr

Minister for Innovation, Industry,
Science and Research, Australia

For and on behalf of the
New Zealand Government:



The Hon Gerry Brownlee

Minister for Economic Development,
Government of New Zealand