



Project: Square Kilometre Array (SKA)

Prof. Philip Diamond, Director-General, SKA Organisation

The SKA: exploring the cosmos from the dawn of time to the origins of life



Abstract:

- The Square Kilometre Array, a next-generation radio telescope, will change the way humanity views the Universe. Building on 70 years of radio astronomy developments, astronomers and engineers are preparing to construct what will be the largest scientific instrument on the planet. The SKA will be built in Australia and South Africa by a global collaboration of nations, including India. The science to be done by SKA encompasses almost the entire history of the Universe, from exploring the so-called Cosmic Dawn, when the first stars and galaxies were formed, to understanding how planets are formed in the present day. Along the way SKA will enable precise studies of the secrets of gravity, dark energy, dark matter and the molecular building blocks of life.

About the Speaker:

- Professor Philip Diamond is the Director-General of the SKA. He was appointed to this position in October 2012 and is leading the team designing and constructing the SKA, which, when completed, will be the largest scientific project on Earth. Prior to this he held the following posts: Director of CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science, Australia (2010-2012); Director of the Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics, UK (2006-2010), Director of e-MERLIN, UK (1999-2006). He completed his PhD at the University of Manchester in 1982. He worked at the Onsala Space Observatory in Sweden (1982 – 1984) and the Max-Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy in Bonn, Germany (1984 – 1986) before moving to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) in the USA for 12 years (1987 – 1999). He held the position of Deputy Director of the NRAO's VLA and VLBA before moving back to the UK in 1999.

