



Project: Square Kilometre Array (SKA)

Dr. William Garnier, Director of Communications, SKA Organisation, UK
Big science for peace and development: the SKA exemplar



Abstract:

- There will be a before and an after SKA. The Square Kilometre Array Observatory, which will run vast arrays of astronomical telescopes in Australia and South Africa, is a global endeavour which promises to impact society in a number of ways both at a micro and macro level: through the game-changing science it aims to deliver, the cutting-edge innovation it depends upon, the spinoffs it will likely produce, the inspiration it provides, the societal challenges it will address in a number of disciplines, and the growth it will bring to local and national economies. Bridging and uniting diverse nations and cultures under a peaceful banner, the SKA project offers a canvas on which a new kind of science diplomacy takes place. One that has the potential to support development agendas in a progressive and sustainable way, empowering nations and people through training, education and access to and exposure to new technology.

About the Speaker:

- William Garnier is Director of Communications at the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Organisation. In his position, William is in charge of developing and delivering the overarching SKA Communications and Outreach strategy for the project. This is done in close coordination with communications experts from the global SKA partnership, including candidate member countries. William has been working in science communication and stakeholder engagement for over 15 years. He first started as a freelance journalist in France and then as a science communicator in major international astronomy organisations. After two years at ESO (European Southern Observatory) in Chile, he set up and led the communications department of the then world's largest radio telescope, ALMA (Atacama Large Millimeter Array) in 2007. In November 2012, William took on the challenge to lead the global communications effort of one of the most ambitious scientific adventures of the 21st century: the SKA.

