

South African Aerospace Group facilitates world's largest radio telescope major milestone

Wins a joint bid for the development of the Big Data Storage Solution in the world's largest astronomy enterprise to date

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South African Aerospace Group supports world's largest radio telescope the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) in achieving major milestone

[Space Commercial Services Aerospace Group](#), a private South African company providing commercial satellite technology solutions, once again proved that it has world class capabilities, by delivering systems engineering services to the pre-construction phase of the Square Kilometer Array (SKA), the world's largest radio telescope under construction in the country.

Operating through one of its subsidiaries, [Space Advisory Company](#), the group was awarded a pre-qualification contract in May 2013, to provide systems engineering services for the radio telescope project's Science Data Processor and continued to contribute significantly to the Preliminary Design Review which sets the stage for the detailed design work to commence.

"Our subsidiary, Space Advisory Company, (SAC) played a key role in

several of SKA's milestones and certainly proved that it has world-class capability through its participation in and contribution to the SKA project as members of the global team. We recently won a joint bid for another project focusing on the development of the Data Storage Solution. We are delighted to play a role in the world's largest astronomy enterprise to date," says Dr. Sias Mostert, CEO of Space Commercial Services Aerospace Group (SCS



Space Commercial Services Aerospace Group's main team members driving the SKA contract are from left Ferdl Graser (Systems Engineer), Kechil Kirkham, Ben Opperman and Francois Malan.



A typical completed radio antenna telescope at the Square Kilometer Array site near Carnarvon in the Northern Province of South Africa. Hundreds of these will be constructed to make up the world's biggest and most powerful radio telescope, which will be u

accessible to astronomers' worldwide, for further analysis. The collection of data is not only highly complex requiring numerous scientific processes but also arrives in vast quantities. The Science Data Processor of the project will need an estimated computing power of a 100 million desktop computers by its completion in 2030.

Dr. Mostert also notes that, as in the case of the SKA project, the handling of data in immense proportions i.e. Big Data, and in the rate whereby it is produced, has a spin-off benefit in big data processing challenges in the commercial sector.

Supporting this claim is their 'Data Vault' platform, developed by their subsidiary companies, [Chorosworks](#) and Geo Risk Information Platform (GRiP). Their focus is to add value through geospatial data and DataVault enables both subsidiaries the ability to handle large volumes of data.

To date, geospatial and satellite information has proved to be very useful as a community-mapping tool for government agencies in the case of disaster management, urban development and population migrations. On the other side of the spectrum, insurance companies and banks utilize the information to identify types of dwellings to assess, for example, flood risk and bond exposure. Similarly, the retail industry can apply satellite information to recognize income groups and the effectiveness of direct marketing and advertising campaigns.

"One of the many advantages of using remote sensing with geospatial business tools is that we can now apply our models to the rest of Africa. The information that we have collected from the satellite images, provides critical data to support essential services," says Dr. Mostert.

Ends

Captions

SCS TEAM

Space Commercial Services Aerospace Group's main team members driving the SKA contract are from left Ferdl Graser (Systems Engineer), Kechil Kirkham, Ben Opperman and Francois Malan.

SKA One/SKA Two

A typical completed radio antenna telescope at the Square Kilometer Array site near Carnarvon in the Northern Province of South Africa. Hundreds of these will be constructed to make up the world's biggest and most powerful radio telescope, which will be used by astronomers to study the universe. The Science Data Processor of this project will have an estimated computing power of a 100 million desktop computers by its completion in 2030. Photo: SKA South Africa.

Anthony Penderis on behalf of Space Commercial Services Aerospace Group compiled this press release.

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