

Schedule 6 – Description of SKA

The SKA is a large scale next-generation radio telescope, the concept for which is being developed by a cohort of international scientists and engineers. It is planned for construction over the period 2012-20. The SKA design is likely to incorporate a large number of dishes and array stations spread over more than 3,000 kilometres and capable of acting as a single telescope. It is expected to be 50 to 100 times more sensitive than current radio telescopes and assist scientists to understand some of the greatest mysteries of the physical universe.

Australia is one of two countries bidding to host the SKA. A decision on the location of the project is planned to be made in 2011-12. Australia's candidate site for the SKA is the MRO. The ASKAP project will contribute to Australia's SKA bid by providing evidence of the effectiveness of the site for radio astronomy.