

SOUTH AFRICA–INDIA Astronomy Bilateral Programme – PHASE 2 Workshop, 12-13 January 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

This workshop is planned within the framework of the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of India, signed in Pretoria on 19 July 1995 and renewed in 2007. The Twelfth Joint Committee Meeting (JC) between South Africa and India was held on 19 February 2020 in Pretoria, South Africa.

The Joint Committee noted with appreciation the outcomes of the 1st phase of the South Africa-India Astronomy Programme that has recently ended, which highlighted success mainly in two domains. The first being the cooperation in technical and instrumentation development, and the second being the joint continuum survey between the Indian Giant Metre-wave Radio Telescope (GMRT) and South African MeerKAT. In addition, the 1st phase of the programme saw greater involvement of engineers and telescope designers from both countries throughout the 8 projects that were jointly funded. As a way forward, the JC endorsed the continuation of the South Africa-India Astronomy Programme to the second phase and both sides agreed on a joint bilateral workshop to be hosted by India in order to map out the second phase.

2. AIMS

The primary aim of the Indo-South African Flagship Programme in Astronomy is to significantly strengthen areas of cooperation in areas of strategic importance to both countries. The aim of this meeting is to identify areas of mutual strength and interest, and to map out the second phase of the programme

3. DATES AND VENUE

The Scientific Workshop will take place on January 12, 2021, followed the next day by the India-SA Astronomy Working Group Meeting on January 13, 2021. Both events will be hosted via video conference (Zoom).

3. PARTICIPANTS

The workshop will be by invitation only, this is in order to facilitate discussion. Attendees will include members of the India-SA Astronomy Working group, representations from the respective Departments of Science and Technology, the PIs of the phase I projects and representatives of the broader astronomy community.

We expect each phase I project to present an overview and progress of their projects. We also welcome expressions of interest for new projects. Guideline for presenters are given below:

Guidelines for Presenters

Phase I Projects

Phase I project presentations should address the following points:

- Overview, outcome and highlights of the Phase I project
- Potential for continuation of project into phase II.
- Challenges encountered
- Advice for the way forward

New Expressions of interest

Expressions of interest are invited in the fields of astrophysical-related science, engineering, technology, computational hardware and software development and outreach. All supported projects will be built on the principles of equity, sharing the costs and sharing the benefits, so new expressions must speak to common interests and must draw upon complementary strengths of the partners.

Expressions of interest should be uploaded at the link supplied below by 15 December 2020. The expressions of interest should be a in PDF form and be no more than 1 page. It should address the following points:

- Names of potential investigators and/or institutes
- Description of proposed project
- Complementary strengths of participants (if collaborators have been identified)
- Potential value to the two countries

PDF upload link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbAwTri840N954_pjxqSWjfxC4hkDQ9Esu92ulOPnPKOHwXQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

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