

AFRICAN LESSONS FOR ASTRONOMY

Francois Kapp, *South African Radio Astronomy Observatory.*

The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) is in the process of completing the MeerKAT telescope, while also working on the African VLBI Network and the Square Kilometre Array. In looking at these projects, some themes emerge that can be collected into guiding principles for thinking of the Acquisition of Radio Astronomy Instruments. Some of these principles are very well aligned to the CASPER philosophy, while others offer insight into buy vs build trade-offs and the differences between experiments and facilities. The constraints that are unique to Radio Astronomy, for example Radio Frequency Interference, will receive special attention. In keeping with the theme for the workshop, the material is accessible to someone who is being introduced to the field of Radio Astronomy, although basic academic knowledge of Signal Processing and Radio Communications is assumed.