

Background presentation:
Instruments to support Africa-EU
radio astronomy cooperation

Daan du Toit

Representative of South African Department of
Science and Technology

Vice-Chair of Africa Expert Group for Africa-EU
Science, Information Society and Space Partnership

Research Funding Opportunity

- ERA-Net for Africa (ERAfrica) supporting Joint Africa-EU Strategy
- African and European funders of research and innovation – likely budget €15 million
- Call likely to be published January close April
- Opportunity for radio astronomy: category “idea-driven” – bottom-up / non-thematic
- Only criteria likely excellence and impact, and African-European consortium (2 African, 2 European)
- Funding by national funders – different criteria for different partners

Researcher mobility, staff exchange, and education opportunities

- FP7 calls closing in January 2013
 - International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)
 - Funding joint programmes 24-48 months trans-national mobility researchers, technical and management staff between Europe and Africa (selected countries)
 - Industry Academia Partnerships Pathways (IAPP)
 - Funding longer-term research cooperation programme between industry and academia participants from Africa and Europe knowledge-sharing and inter-sector mobility based human resource interaction

Researcher mobility, staff exchange, and education opportunities (2)

- FP7 Marie Curie calls coming next few months:
 - International Incoming Fellowships (Africa to Europe, 12-24 months)
 - International Outgoing Fellowships (Europe to Africa, 12-24 months)
 - Deadlines in August 2013

FP7 ICT

- South Africa – EU cooperation on future internet experimental research and testbed connection
 - Development software, deployment and evaluated in testbeds
 - Goal affordable technologies for future Internet
 - Delay tolerant networks
 - Opportunistic communications
 - Innovative applications for social integration
- Deadline 15 January 2013
- €1 million for European partners

ACP Science and Technology Programme

- Call closing 7 February 2013
- €23 million
- 3 organisations 2 different ACP countries (minimum)
- Focus: capacity-building not research
 - Raise awareness of role S&T for development
 - Produce innovation
 - Promote scientific culture
 - Identify S&T goals and priorities
 - S&T programme management, monitoring and evaluation

Next Steps

- African European Radio Astronomy Platform (AERAP) can assist:
 - Early information on funding opportunities (e.g. publication of calls)
 - Strategic advice regard to proposal preparation
 - Facilitate consortium / partnership building