

Australian Industry Engagement in R&D for the xNTD

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ABSTRACT

CSIRO's extended New Technology Demonstrator (xNTD) project is being led by the ATNF. It will build a new radio telescope based on an array of 20 antennas, each equipped with a focal plane array (FPA). The xNTD will be based at Mileura in Western Australia. It is an ambitious project with a challenging specification: Many of the technologies developed for the xNTD are critical to the realisation of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) - International Project: www.skatelescope.org Here we illustrate how CSIRO is engaging with Australian-based industry for xNTD and SKA R&D.

The Australian Electronics Industry Action Agenda (EIAA) Implementation group has endorsed the SKA project. With advice from industry groups and support from AEEMA we have developed the "SKA cluster mapping project" to determine capability, gaps and strategic goals within Australian-based electronics and ICT industry. The initial mapping project is expected to foster the development of industry-led SKA R&D projects in the future, offering global exposure to potential new astronomy markets, as well as the exploitation of SKA technologies beyond radio astronomy.