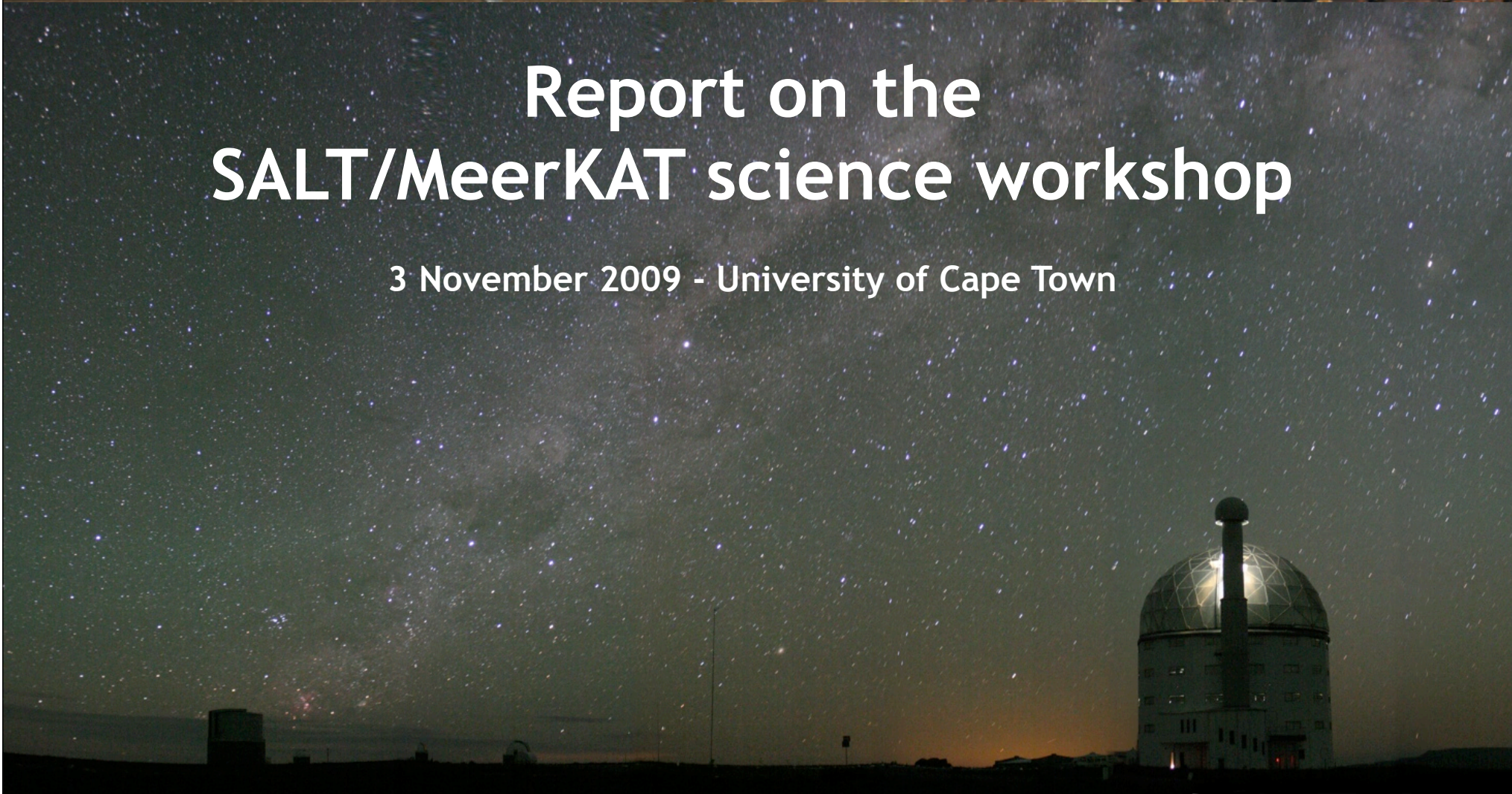




Report on the SALT/MeerKAT science workshop

3 November 2009 - University of Cape Town



Report on the SALT/MeerKAT science workshop*

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First joint meeting of South African optical and radio astronomy community, linked to the 22nd SALT Science Working Group meeting

Very timely because of recent calls for proposals:

1. MeerKAT Request for Proposals (deadline: 15/03/10)
2. SALT Performance Verification proposals (deadline: 15/01/10)

* see <http://www.ast.uct.ac.za/workshops/saltmeerkat2009/saltmeerkat2009.php>

Overwhelming response to call for 1-day workshop

- More than 83 registered participants:
 - 21 international participants from SALT partner institutes*
 - 62 South African participants from 6 different universities and 3 national institutes (SAAO/HartRAO/SKA-SA)

Programme:

- Overview of major multi-wavelength facilities in Southern Africa
(MeerKAT, SALT, HESS)
- Short science presentations (**focus: SALT + MeerKAT**)
- Break-out sessions on: **A.** Transients/Galactic, **B.** Galaxies and Galaxy Evolution, **C.** AGN & Cosmology - **survey science**
(1000 h of MeerKAT + 300 h of SALT / year)

* SALT partners are: South Africa (NRF), Poland (Nicolas Copernicus Astr. Center), Hobby-Eberly Telescope Founding Inst., Rutgers Univ., Georg-August Universitaet Goettingen, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, Carnegie Mellon Univ., Univ. of Canterbury, UK SALT consortium, Univ. of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Dartmouth College, American Museum of Nat. History, Inter-Univ. Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (India).

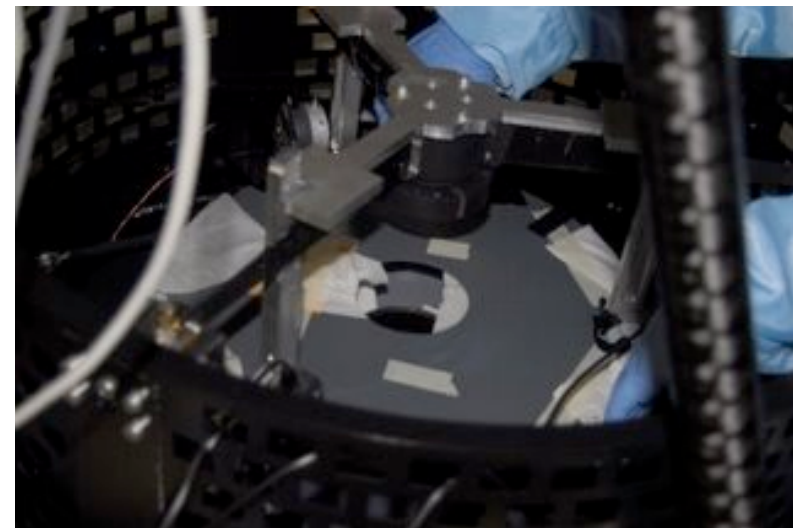
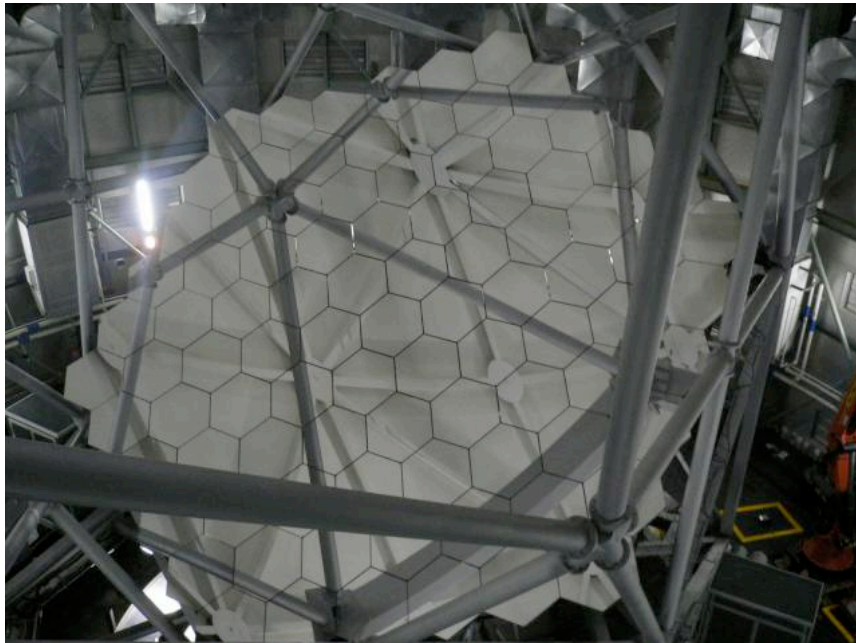
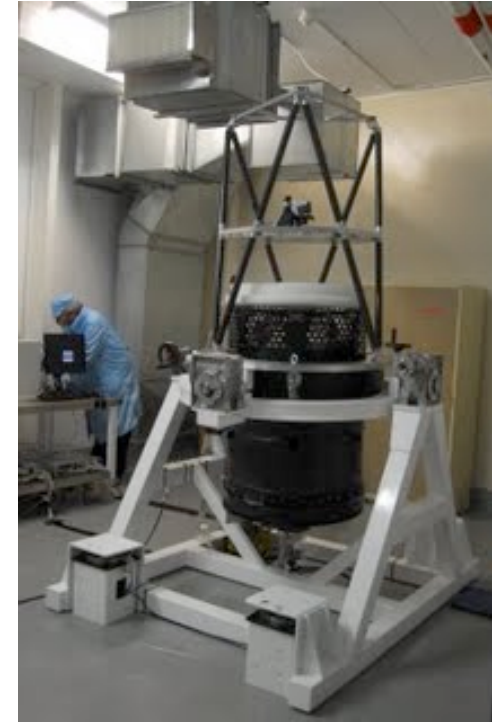
SALT Performance Verification Call:

Following

- I. re-alignment and optical testing of optical components in the Spherical Aberration Corrector (SAC) and improving SAC / telescope interface (new collar: aluminium/steel collar interface)*. PI: Darragh O'Donoghue (SAAO)

- II. improving UV throughput of the RSS (lens fluid reacted with polyurethane lens fluid bladders creating UV-absorbing polymer, affecting multiplet lenses in collimator and camera) In process of cleaning, CaF₂ lens broke & NaCl lens fogged. Improvements to mechanics (slit-mask exchange). PI: Ken Nordsieck (Univ. of Wisconsin)

* see <http://saltqmission.blogspot.com/> and the 2009 October SALT-eNEWS issue



SALT Performance Verification Call:

- Robert Stobie Spectrograph (<http://www.salt.ac.za/>)
Resolution of RSS ($R \sim 500 - 10000$)

Focus in upcoming commissioning phase:

1. long slit spectroscopy
2. mos (100 slits in 8×8 arcmin² field of view)
3. Fabry-Perot

Timeline for next instrumentation:

- High Resolution Spectrograph* (on the telescope 2011)
Resolution: $R \sim 16000 - 67000$
- Near-infrared Arm to RSS** (up to 1.7 micron) (expected 2012)
Resolution; $R \sim 1200 - 7000$

* <http://www.cfai.dur.ac.uk/salt> ** <http://www.sal.wisc.edu/PFIS/>

SALT PV operations to start early 2010

Good prospects for joint survey science with SALT and SKA-precursors/pathfinders

