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Deliverable D17.2

Providing access of 227 hours to the WSRT infrastructure

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Deliverable Leading Partner: STICHTING ASTRONOMISCH ONDERZOEK IN NEDERLAND (ASTRON), the Netherlands

An European project supported within the 7th framework programme

1 Document information

Document name:	Providing access of 239 hours to the TNA WSRT in the period 01/07/2013 – 15/05/2014
Type	Other
WP	17
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1.1 Dissemination Level

Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

1.2 Content

2 TNA-WSRT deliverable

2.1 Information about the TNA-WSRT

The Westerbork Synthesis Radio Telescope (WSRT), owned and operated by ASTRON in The Netherlands, has 14 fully steerable parabolic reflectors, distributed in an East-West configuration of 2700m length. It is currently equipped with a sensitive receiver package, the Multi-Frequency Frontends (MFFEs), providing almost continuous coverage at decimetre and centimetre wavelengths as well as frequency agility. Coupled to its flexible half-million channel correlator, and its modern pulsar and VLBI backends, the WSRT continues to be a uniquely capable facility in the world that is consistently oversubscribed and draws a wide international user base.

During this reporting period, the WSRT entered the first phase of its next major upgrade: an ambitious 21cm receiver system, *"Apertif"*, consisting of phased-array feeds and digital beamformer, developed at ASTRON, will be installed at the focal plane of 12 (out of 14) of the WSRT dishes, replacing the current MFFEs, and will be completed in late 2015.

Currently three WSRT dishes are equipped with *Apertif* frontends, while mechanical upgrade work of the remaining dishes is ongoing with a rate of one per month.

Up to 2013, the WSRT followed the customary semi-annual observing proposal cycle. However, in view of the impending transition to *Apertif*, it was decided that the Semester 14A call, with observing starting on 1 December 2013, should cover allocations for the entire year of 2014.

Proposal preparation and submission, and project design, are facilitated by the web-based tools NorthStar and MoM. The WSRT Programme Committee (PC) is composed of 10 members, selected from the international astronomical community on a personal basis for their knowledge of relevant research fields. The PC members are appointed for a 3-year term. The PC meets face-to-face twice per year, following research proposal deadlines around 15 March and 15 September, to discuss and rate observing requests for the subsequent semesters

Even at the end of the MFFE operational phase, the over-subscription rate showed that the demand still outstripped the available time throughout the year, and several proposals have to be rejected or trimmed down.

2.2 Report on the access in the period 01/07/2013-15/05/2014

A list and details of scientific projects which were eligible for TNA support during the second reporting period (1 July 2013 to 15 May 2014) is given in the following table:

Project Acronym	Name (Institute, Country) of the TNA user group leader	Number of eligible TNA users	Provided Access (Hours)
R13B011	N.-W. Blazej (Jagiellonian University, Poland)	3	25
R13B012	B. Marcote (university of Barcelona, Spain)	3	20
R14A013	De Gasperin (University of Hamburg, Germany)	3	26
R14A026	G. Gentile (University of Gent, Belgium)	2	144
R14A028	F. Bigiel (University of Heidelberg, Germany)	4	24
TOTAL:		TOTAL:15	TOTAL:239

The total number of access hours provided to the 4 TNA-eligible projects was 239. The total number of eligible users was 15. The detailed information about the committee providing access, projects and selection is given in the TNA database of the 2nd periodic report.

2.3 Information about the EC financial contribution to the travel

During this reporting period, TNA travel funds were used to fund the participation of members of the WSRT Programme Committee to the meetings of 7 May 2013 and 20 November 2013 (held in ASTRON). The travel budget is allocated by the RadioNet3 beneficiary No. 5 (JIVE). Therefore, the exact numbers will be presented at the following periodic report.

Project acronym	Person name (institute)
WSRT PC May 2013	J.M. van der Hulst (University of Groningen, Netherlands)
WSRT PC May 2013	Isabela Prandoni (IRA, Bologna, Italy)
WSRT PC May 2013	Carol Mundell (University of Liverpool UK)
WSRT PC May 2013	Andrea Possenti (Observatorio di Cagliari, Italy)
WSRT PC May 2013	Organisational Costs
WSRT PC May 2013	Organisational Costs (Dinner)
WSRT PC Nov. 2013	Andreas Brunthaller (MPIfR, Germany)
WSRT PC Nov. 2013	J.M. van der Hulst (University of Groningen)
WSRT PC Nov. 2013	Isabela Prandoni (IRA, Bologna, Italy)
WSRT PC Nov. 2013	Organisational Costs
TOTAL estimated EC contribution	