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MeerLICHT: Exploration of real-time commensal observing

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Abstract content ** (Max 300 words)** **Formatting & Special chars**

The MeerKAT radio telescope array has enabled commensal access to data obtained during science operations of the MeerKAT Large Survey Projects (LSP). This will open a tremendous window on the transient radio sky, especially when tracking transient events in real-time. To fully explore this new paradigm of real-time commensal observing, the ThunderKAT LSP will construct a small optical telescope (MeerLICHT, to be housed in Sutherland) which will always observe the MeerKAT sky, at the same time and with the same field of view. MeerLICHT in combination with MeerKAT/ThunderKAT is optimised to study astrophysical transients over a range of time scales in the radio and optical. In this talk I will outline the science of ThunderKAT and MeerLICHT, the time scale of both projects and highlight some of the early milestones.

Apply to be considered for a student award (Yes / No)?

No

Level for award (Hons, MSc, PhD)?

N/a

Main supervisor (name and email) and his / her institution

N/a

Would you like to submit a short paper for the Conference Proceedings (Yes / No)?

Yes

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