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An African VLBI Network of Radio Telescopes

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The advent of international wideband communication by optical fibre has produced a revolution in communications and the use of the internet. Many African countries are now connected to undersea fibre linking them to other African countries and to other continents. Previously international communication was by microwave links through geostationary satellites. These are becoming redundant in some countries as optical fibre takes over, as this provides 1000 times the bandwidth of the satellite links.

In the 1970's and 1980's some two dozen large (30m diameter class) antennas were built in various African countries to provide the satellite links. As these antennas become redundant, the possibility exists to convert them for radio astronomy at a cost of roughly one tenth that of a new antenna of similar size.

HartRAO and the SA SKA Project have started exploring this possibility with some of the African countries.

**Level (Hons, MSc,
 PhD, other)?**

other

**Consider for a student
 award (Yes / No)?**

No

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

Yes

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