

AVN – The Real Story

By

Gordon MacLeod

25 January 2016



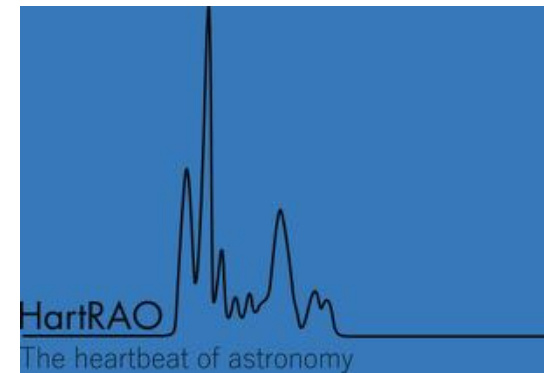
science
& technology

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



HartRAO

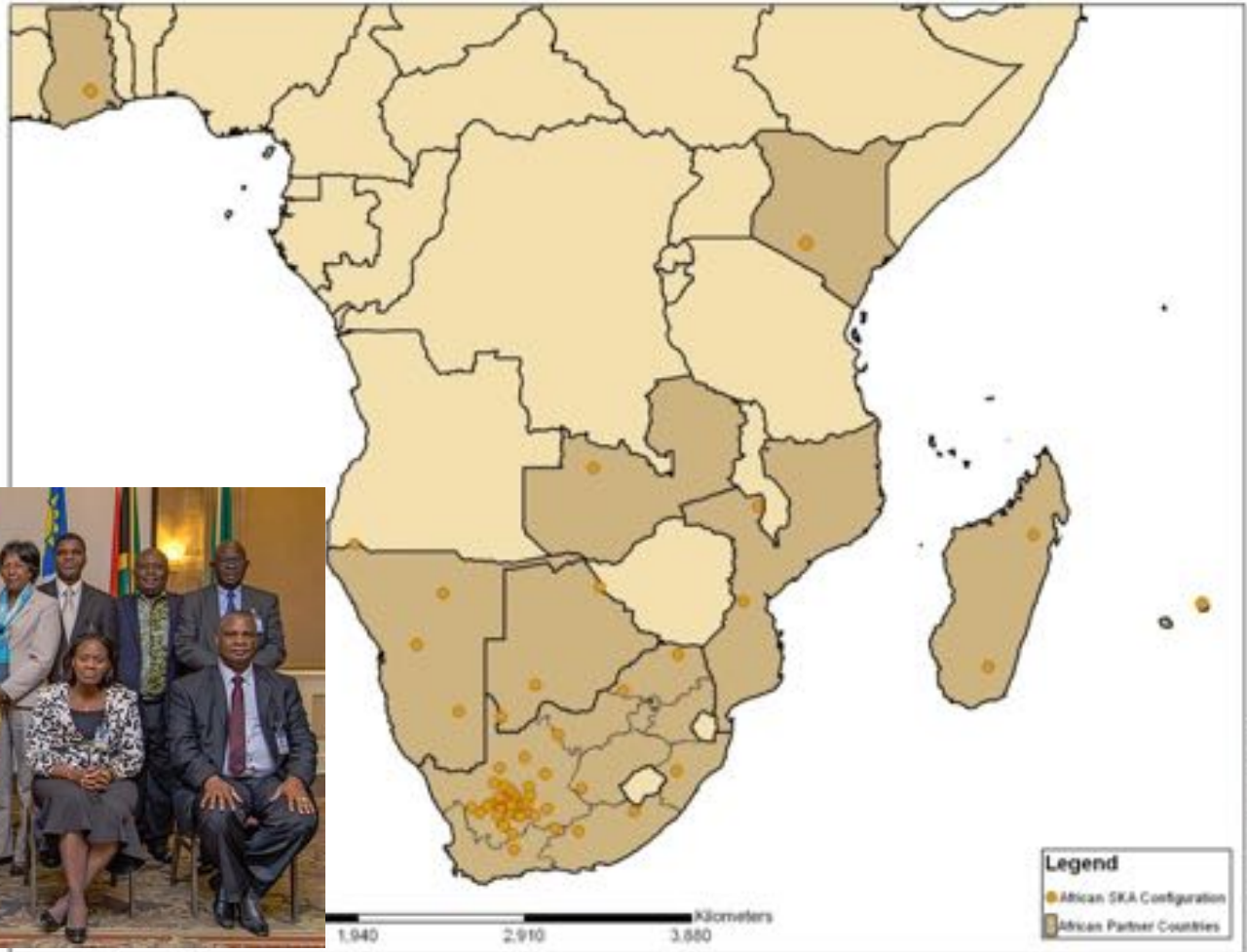
Hartebeesthoek Radio
Astronomy Observatory



In the beginning...

There was the SKA bid...

SA shocks world
asks to host...



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But... forgot to ask African partners!

Make it African...

Dr Tshepo Seekoe CD:RAA DST

- creates African SKA Partners Working Group and Steering Committee



A Simple Request...

“a MeerKAT-type telescope in each country...”

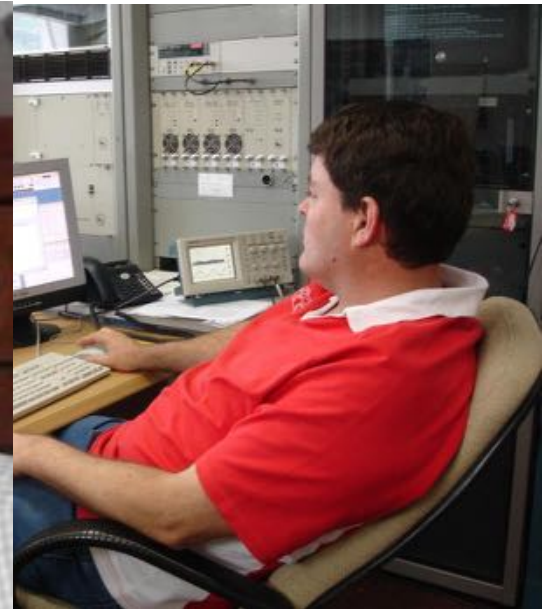
- From minutes of 1st ASPWG in Pretoria, 2008



AVN is Born...

Gang of four

- Gordon, Mike, Ludwig & Jon discuss science from network of 12-m antennas (June 2009)



Just Like Hart...

Co-location, co-location, co-location



A Lobbying Strategy...

Convincing the DST its good for our bid

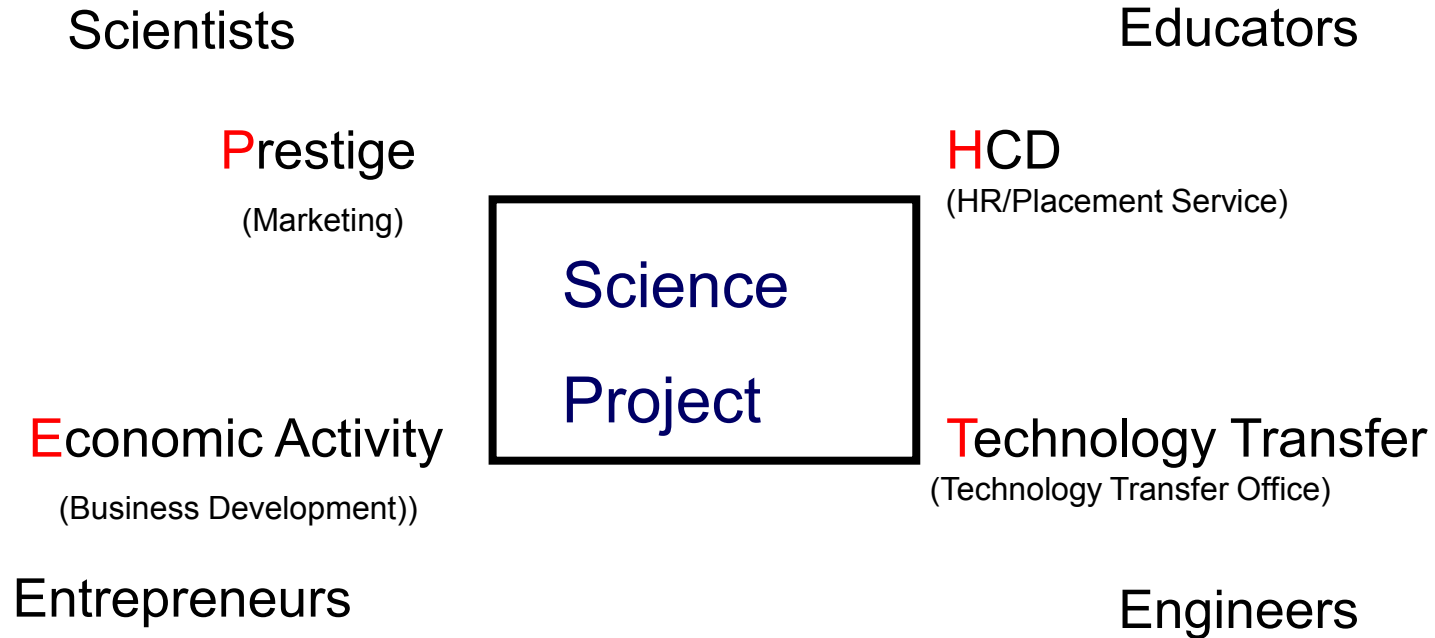
The Prisoners' Dilemma

		Prisoner A Choices	
		<i>Stay Silent</i>	<i>Confess and Betray</i>
Prisoner B Choices	<i>Stay Silent</i>	Each serves one month in jail	Prisoner A goes free Prisoner B serves full year in jail
	<i>Confess and Betray</i>	Prisoner A serves full year in jail Prisoner B goes free	Each serves three months in jail

Must change equation

An Economic Model...

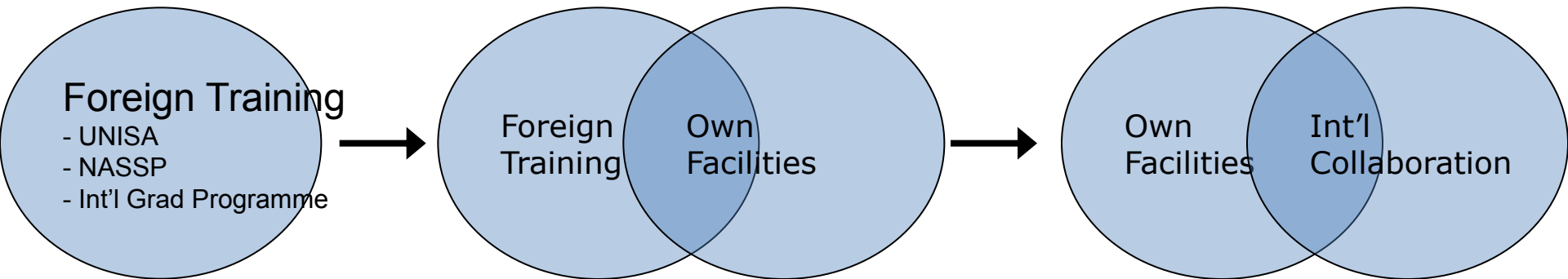
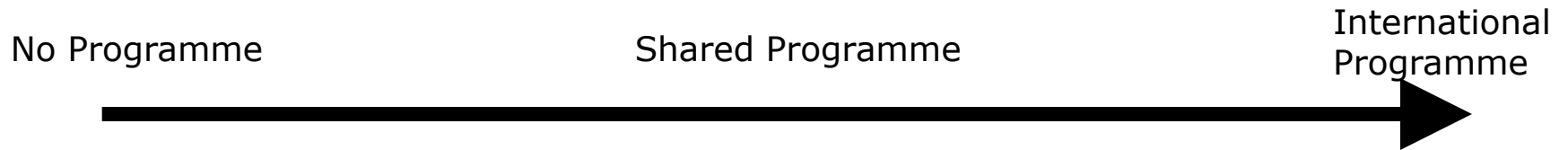
...and good for business



Help to change equation

A Development Path...

...from zero to international



But who pays...

AVN Still Birth...

“SKA agree to build Moz dish but you must never mention VLBI again...”, DST Exco 2010



I can still remember my anxiety growing as the message sunk in...

The AVN Gets Better...

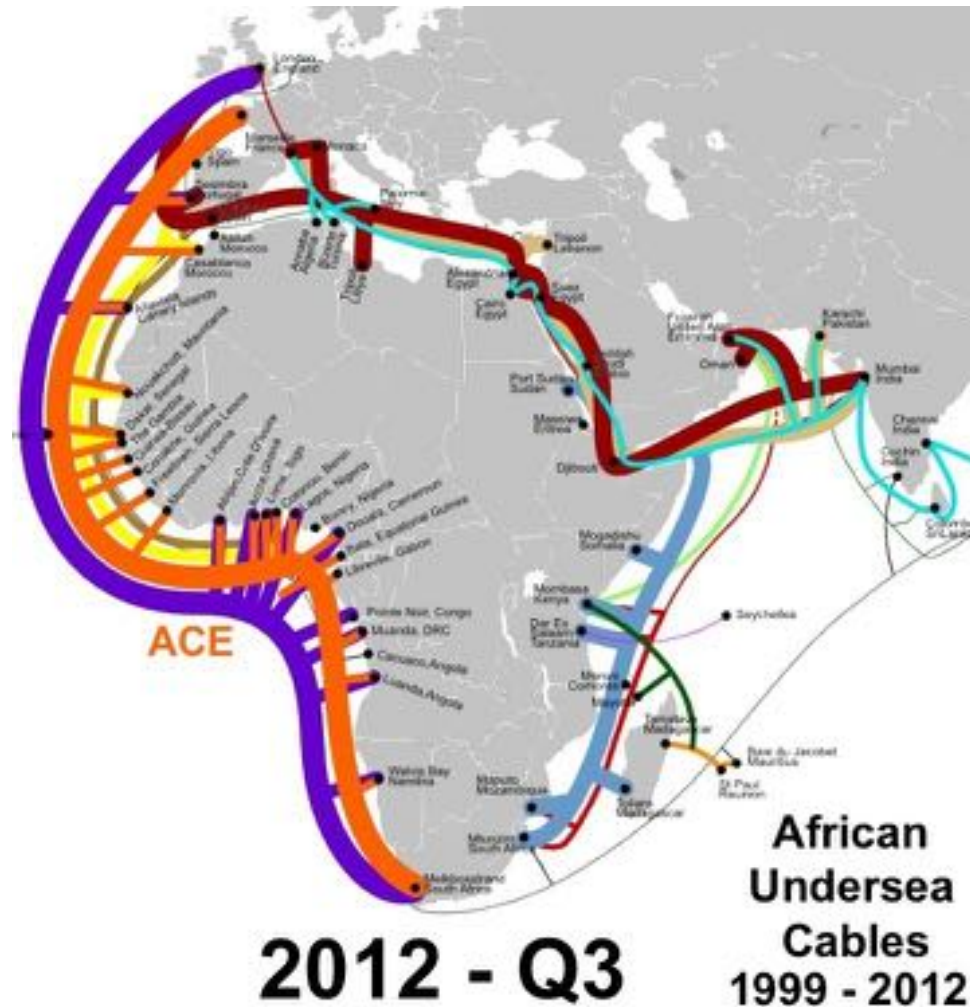
“There’s a disused 30-m antenna in Zambia”, Prof. Lameck Mwena, Polytech Namibia, to Dr Mike Gaylard



My friend’s greatest strength - making ideas better!

The AVN Gets a Reprieve...

The Soccer WC 2010 saved us...



Dr Bernie Fanaroff punting the AVN in 2010...

The Minister Buys In...

Minister Pandor, DST throws in her support...



Agrees to two antennas in Mozambique...

Ghana Steps Up...

Minister Sherry Ayittey and Ms. Adelaide Asante convince Vodafone to donate dish in 2010



With a little help from me...

DST Raises the Money...

Drs. Tshepo Seekoe, Wilson Matakenya and me raise
R120 million from ARF



But wanted money to go to HartRAO...

DST Euro Support...

“support the development of science capacity in Africa through greater investment in research infrastructures, with particular **focus on radio astronomy projects**”,
Written Declaration no. 45, EU Parliament, 2011.

Miguel Martinez



Filip Kaczmarek



Judith Sargentini



Fiona Hall



Teresa Madurell

Takalani Nemaungani



Dan du Toit



MEP

DST

The AVN Rises...

HartRAO & SKA-SA engineering at work

Anita



Mike



Venkat



Keith



Whose next: Kenya, Madagascar, Zambia...

Whose Next...



Kenya



Madagascar



Zambia

And new builds...

AVN - An African telescope build by Africans for Africans



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