

Panel 4 – Global mega-projects: the SKA challenges



Global mega-science projects involving several countries are becoming the norm for challenges such as climate change, life sciences research, etc. Meanwhile, computing moves towards exascale capabilities. What are the distributed computing requirements for the countries and systems? Can we make it happen from New Zealand, making the SKA (Square Kilometre Array radio-telescope) project a flagship?

- Although mighty interesting from a scientific point of view, entrepreneurs and innovators are looking for technology transfer opportunities, which require a different rigour and timeframe. How do we balance both worlds?
- How can a mega-project be made attractive enough for vendors to fight for collaborative sponsorship instead of responding to RfP with standardised solutions? Is there an opportunity for a “Linux-type” platform / technology development initiated from small countries such as New Zealand?
- Funding is always limited: against what do you measure ROI to justify it?
- Can you name a few successful examples of mega-projects? What are their DNA's?