

Mr. Manyapelo Richard Makgotlho
Independent Communications Authority
of South Africa (ICASA)
Private Bag XI0002
Sandton 2146

Attention
Mr Manyapelo Richard Makgotlho
Email: rmakgotlho@icasa.org.za

Date: 27 August 2021

Dear Mr. Makgotlho

**RE: NOTICE INVITING COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT UPDATE OF THE NATIONAL RADIO
FREQUENCY PLAN 2021**

This submission is made by the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) in response to the invitation by the Authority for interested stakeholders to submit written representations of the Draft Update of the National Radio Frequency Plan 2021. SARAO is a business unit of the National Research Foundation and it is responsible for overseeing radio astronomy in South Africa as well as coordinating Africa's involvement in the African VLBI Network (AVN).

Our submission is made up of three parts as follows:

Part A provide our general comments on the draft plan and suggest ways in which improvement can be done or confusion can be illuminated.

Part B addresses some of the issues that affect radio astronomy due to decision taken in previous world radiocommunication conferences and also identify potential threads to RAS in the current WRC agenda items.

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The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) is a National Facility managed by the National Research Foundation and incorporates all national radio astronomy telescopes and programmes. SARAO is responsible for implementing the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) in South Africa.

Part C addresses the modification to section 5 of the Draft Update National Radio Frequency Plan 2021 to include the developments in the establishment of the Karoo Central Astronomy Advantage Area regulations and the establishment of a Radio Quite Zone.

We thank the Authority for the opportunity to make our written representation, which are made in the spirit of improving the quality of the document as well as the protection of radio astronomy in south Africa and in Africa. Furthermore, we would like to indicate our intention to participate in public hearings or any other public participation process that the Authority may undertake regarding the update to the band plan.

Regards,



Mr Selaelo Matlhane

Manager: Spectrum and Telecoms

South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)

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