

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NO. 367

21 APRIL 2017

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DECLARE THE SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY (SARAO) AS A NATIONAL FACILITY IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION ACT, 1998

I, Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor, Minister of Science and Technology, hereby give notice of my intention to consolidate all existing and future radio astronomy activities into a single radio astronomy observatory to be called the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) which I intend to declare a National Facility in terms of the National Research Foundation Act, 1998 (Act No.23 of 1998).

Currently existing radio astronomy activities, namely, the MeerKAT, the Karoo Array Telescope (KAT-7), the African Very Long Baseline Interferometry Network (AVN), the Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory (HartRAO), and international radio astronomy experiments in the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) site will be incorporated to form a single observatory which will assume the name SARAO. All future South African radio astronomy activities, including those in the SKA-1 MID and subsequent phases of the SKA will be managed through SARAO.

Once established, I intend to declare the SARAO a National Research Facility under the control of the National Research Foundation (NRF).

Interested or affected persons and members of the public are invited to submit written representations or objections to the intended establishment and declaration of SARAO within sixty (60) days from the date of publication of this notice to:

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Enquiries can be made at telephone number 012 843 6331



**MRS GNM PANDOR, MP
MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**