

HARTEBEESTHOEK RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

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Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory, Krugersdorp, South Africa HartRAO is part of the South African SKA pathfinder, MeerKAT . A 15m prototype antenna, with a moulded composite reflector, is under test at the observatory. Its rms surface accuracy of 1.5 mm rms over the inner 12m. It may be controlled remotely from the SKA base in Cape Town. The 26m antenna continues to perform VLBI (Astro+Geo) and single dish monitoring of masers, pulsars and continuum sources. New reflector panels render 22 GHz observations possible. Computer control of focus and tilt of the subreflector permit automatic adjustment to maximise efficiency as a given receiver is selected for observing.