The Australia Telescope National Facility

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Abstract

The Australia Telescope National Facility (ATNF) is now part of CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science. This new division of CSIRO joins the ATNF and the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex (part of the NASA Deep Space Network). CSIRO's programs of astrophysics research and radio astronomy technology development are also in the division.

The ATNF consists of the Australia Telescope Compact Array, Parkes Telescope, Mopra Telescope, and the Long Baseline Array. Users also have access to NASA's 70 m antenna in Tidbinbilla, near Canberra. Telescope time allocation is based on scientific merit. More information on the ATNF, including instrument capabilities and how to request observing time, may be found at http://www.atnf.csiro.au

CSIRO is currently constructing ASKAP, the Australian SKA Pathfinder. ASKAP will be a unique survey interferometer consisting of 36 antennas with phased array feeds providing a field of view of 30 square degrees and resolution 10 arcsec (1.4 GHz). It will operate with 0.3 GHz bandwidth in the range 0.7–1.8 GHz. Following its completion in 2013, ASKAP will become part of the ATNF.