

A call for Proposals to design and produce merchandise using SARAO Images

The South African Square Kilometre Array (SARAO) project, which includes the construction of the 64 Antenna Receptor MeerKAT radio telescope, is a world-class instrument located in the Karoo and is a project of the Department of Science and Technology, executed through the National Research Foundation and the SARAO South Africa, a business unit of the NRF. Information about the project is available from <http://www.SARAO.ac.za>.

Astronomy has always been a fascination of man. From the beginning of civilisation, the eyes of man have wondered and used the starlight for navigation, to tell the time and seasons for farming but more significantly - tell stories and project their heritage and culture in the sky. Astronomy holds a very significant position in STEM, in that the sky is a lab for astrophysicists and everyone who looks into the night sky is doing science. Hence it opens easy access to the general public and it provides visualisation to abstract concepts of physics and mathematics. Africa is the most diverse continent in the world and with one of the clearest skies in the world, many stories have been told and we would like to use the link between astronomy and culture in art and design.

SARAO is seeking to partner with designers and artists who can collaborate with SARAO to use the images generated from SARAO instruments such as the MeerKAT telescope to produce merchandise. SARAO aims to contribute to increasing economic activities locally through this project. Some of the images are available from <https://www.ska.ac.za/gallery/>. The main task is to incorporate our South African heritage with Astronomy, Science and Technology. This will also excite the public by presenting them with an African interpretation of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) in the form of a fashion collection, accessories, shoe collections, toys, etc.

The designers will make their own creative interpretation of radio astronomy in Africa and STEAM in general - in a form of art and design. This project will target local public and potential international markets, to inspire various age groups and particularly the youth to gain an interest in science and technology through creative science communication. The designs and craft that will come from this initiative should be able to communicate science in a creative form of art without any restrictions to the artist. The designers and artists who will partner with SARAO will have an opportunity to grow their marketing platforms and receive exposure to other SARAO related international partners. Therefore, SARAO is requesting a proposal from designers and artists to produce merchandise inspired by SARAO images.

Restrictions:

Any product that brings the organisation into disrepute such as adult entertainment and military applications are prohibited.

Information Sessions

The details for the information sessions which will be held in Johannesburg and Cape Town are as follows: (attendance is compulsory for all interested parties, kindly RSVP)

Place	Date	Time	Venue
Cape Town	22 August 2019	10:00 am	SARAO Office Cape Town
Johannesburg	23 August 2019	10:00 am	SARAO Office Rosebank

Closing Date: 09 September 2019 11:00 am

FOR TECHNICAL ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

Ms Palesa Nombula
SKA SA Commercialisation Young Professional
Address: Black River Park North, 2 Fir Street, Cape Town, 7925
Email: pnombula@ska.ac.za
Tel: 021 506 7300



