

Background of Square Kilometre Array Project

Astronomy allows us to see back in time, because the light waves from very distant stars or galaxies take a long time to travel through space to our telescopes. So we see these sources as they were a very long time ago. Now astronomers want to build the most powerful telescope ever, to see back to before the first stars and galaxies formed. The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) will be a radio telescope – which means instead of seeing light waves, it will make pictures from radio waves.

Most of the SKA will be built in Africa. The core will be built in the Northern Cape Province, about 80km from the town of Carnarvon (the same site where MeerKAT is being constructed). Some of the SKA will be built in Western Australia.

South Africa has already demonstrated its excellent science and engineering skills by designing and starting to build the MeerKAT telescope – as a pathfinder to the SKA. The first seven dishes, Karoo Array Telescope (KAT-7), are complete and have already produced their first pictures. MeerKAT is attracting great interest internationally – more than 500 international astronomers and 58 African astronomers submitted proposals to do science with MeerKAT once it is completed.

Competition

Entries are invited for short poems of between 15 and 20 lines inspired by the MeerKAT/ Square Kilometre Array (SKA) telescope and its benefits to South Africa and the world at large. The competition is open to Grade 4 – Grade 8 learners in South Africa.

Prizes

- Book Vouchers
- Science Kits
- Trip to SKA site

SKA Poetry Competition Rules & Information:

1. The competition is open to Grade 4 – Grade 8 learners from South African schools.
2. Entrants can submit only one poem clearly handwritten or typed, by post (**SKA/MeerKAT Competition, P.O Box 1758, Pretoria, 0001**) or via the online submission on the SAASTA website; www.saasta.ac.za.
3. The poems must be between 15 and 20 lines and must have a title. The decision of the judges is final and incontestable and no correspondence will be entered into.
4. No materials or additional submissions of poetry will be returned.
5. The organisers reserve the right to cancel any competition at any stage, if deemed necessary, and if circumstances arise out of their control.

6. The organisers do not accept any responsibility for late or lost entries due to postal services. Proof of sending is not proof of receipt.
7. Entries must not have been previously published or submitted for publication or for other competitions. Once a poem has been submitted to this competition it must not be entered into any other competition or offered for use, publication or broadcasting in any form or medium until the end of the competition.
8. The poem must be the original work of the entrant submitting it. By entering the competition, entrants warrant and undertake to the organisers that their work is original and does not contain any third party copyright material or quotes without appropriate permission having been obtained and identified to the organisers when the entry is submitted.
9. This competition is not open to employees of DST, SKA South Africa and NRF/SAASTA and persons directly or indirectly involved in the aforementioned organisations or the running of the competition or their direct families.
10. SAASTA reserves the right to withhold prizes in whole or in part if, in the opinion of the judges, the standard of entries so warrants.
11. All personal details and information accompanying each submission must be truthful, accurate and in no way misleading.
12. SAASTA reserves the right to withdraw prizes at their discretion in whole in the event of dishonesty, fraud or non-eligibility.
13. Entrants will be deemed to have accepted these rules and to agree to be bound by them when entering the competitions.
14. Entrants who do not comply with the requirements of the organisers will be disqualified.
15. Competition closes on the 15 November 2013