

Dear Mrs, Mr,

We are a group citizens who are concerned about what will happen to the Lofar telescope in Holland.

We want to alert you to the following:

The Lofar telescope is situated in the commune Borger Odoorn. At this very moment the government of the Netherlands is trying to manifest a large windturbine farm, consisting of 50 large (200 metre high) windturbines of 3 MW each in the very proximity of this telescope. The shortest distance of the windturbines will be 2,7 kilometers.

Windturbines generate low frequency noise and will disturb the functioning of the Lofar telescope for sure.

The oddity of this story is that the ministry that is financing Lofar is also financing the windturbines (Economic Affairs). That makes it difficult for the workers at Lofar to protest.

We (= Platform Storm) are a group of people living in the very neighbourhood of LOFAR and when the plans of the windturbinefarm will be manifested we will live with approximately 10.000 people IN the windturbinefarm! Our concerns for the environment, for the health of the people, for the economy of the region and for LOFAR are big.

Since the government is not willing to listen to the concerns of all the people in this region we decided to let everyone who is a stakeholder know what is going on here.

The fact that windturbines generate low frequent noise is still denied or minimalized, eventhough more and more research shows otherwise.

It seems as if everybody involved is looking in another direction....

Years of scientific research and money from the Dutch government AND the European Union will be wasted.

Since this letter is going to be distributed widely we like to add some information about what LOFAR is doing:

LOFAR's MSSS survey is a concerted effort to image the entire northern sky at very low radio frequencies, between 30 and 160 MHz (wavelengths from 2m to 10m). The primary aim of the survey is to perform an initial shallow scan of the sky, in order to create an all-sky model that will support

the calibration of much deeper observations. It is comparable in sensitivity and angular resolution to previous surveys with 'classical' radio telescopes like the Very Large Array (VLA) in the USA, ASTRON's Westerbork Synthesis Radio Telescope (WSRT), and the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) in India. MSSS is unique in that it operates at substantially lower frequencies, and is therefore poised to uncover new sources that were missed by previous surveys. Its broad bandwidth coverage is also novel in all-sky radio surveys, and will be used to provide additional information about the detected objects.

Website: www.astron.nl

About the SKA

The Square Kilometre Array will be the world's largest and most sensitive radio telescope. The total collecting area will be approximately one square kilometre giving 50 times the sensitivity, and 10 000 times the survey speed, of the best current-day telescopes. The SKA will be built in Southern Africa and in Australia. Thousands of receptors will extend to distances of 3.000 km from the central regions. The SKA will address fundamental unanswered questions about our Universe including how the first stars and galaxies formed after the big bang, how dark energy is accelerating the expansion of the Universe, the role of magnetism in the cosmos, the nature of gravity, and the search for life beyond Earth. Construction of phase one of the SKA is scheduled to start in 2016. The SKA Organisation, with its headquarters at Jodrell Bank Observatory, near Manchester, UK, was established in December 2011 as a not-for-profit company in order to formalise relationships between the international partners and centralise the leadership of the project.

Members of the SKA Organisation as of March 2013:

- Australia: Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research*
- Canada: National Research Council*
- China: Ministry of Science and Technology*
- Germany: Federal Ministry of Education and Research*
- Italy: National Institute for Astrophysics*
- Netherlands: Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research*
- New Zealand: Ministry of Economic Development*
- Republic of South Africa: National Research Foundation*
- Sweden: Onsala Space Observatory*
- United Kingdom: Science and Technology Facilities Council*

Associate member:

- *India: National Centre for Radio Astrophysics*
SKA website: www.skatelescope.org

Interesting Facts

- At present there are several long baseline networks dotted around the world. They are located in Europe, Canada, the United States, Russia, Japan and Australia
- **The African Very Long Baseline Network (AVN)** will modify existing but redundant large (30m) telecommunications dishes for astronomical use
- In Europe the **JIVE (Joint Institute for VLBI in Europe)** is an SKA Pathfinder founded in 1993
- **The Very Long Baseline Array (VLBA)** uses ten dedicated, 25-meter telescopes spanning 5351 miles across the United States, and is the largest radio telescope array that operates all year round as an astronomical instrument
- The **LOFAR telescope**, built by ASTRON in the Netherlands, which is a pathfinder for the SKA is currently the largest connected radio telescope currently in existence.

Our aim with this letter is to bring this in the *AWARENESS* of people who, may be, do not know and are directly involved and can therefore question the decisionmaking of the department of Economic Affairs in the Netherlands. Therefore we ask you to warn your governments and the government in the Netherlands to stop wasting years of scientific research.

Yours sincerely,

Platform Storm