



Square Kilometre Array (SKA) SA

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2x Data Scientists Pinelands, Cape Town

SKA SA has an exciting opportunity for two Data Scientists to join our Cape Town based team. The successful candidate will be considered for appointment at a junior, standard, or senior level, commensurate with experience and record.

The successful incumbent will do research and development in machine learning and Bayesian techniques and systems, with a focus on enhancing MeerKAT engineering and science output.

The South African SKA Project (SKA SA) is a project of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), administered by the National Research Foundation (NRF). SKA SA is responsible for coordinating Africa's involvement in the design and construction of the Square Kilometre Array Radio Telescope, the design and construction of the Karoo Array Radio Telescope (MeerKAT) and the African VLBI Network (AVN), as well as the development of skills required to design, build and operate these instruments.

Minimum education requirement:

- PhD or equivalent degree in Astronomy, Engineering, Physics, Statistics or Machine Learning

Minimum work experience required:

- 5 years' experience in research (post-graduate) environment
- 5 years' experience in software development
- Record of successful collaboration work

Desirable additional education, work experience & personal qualities:

- 3 years' experience in the field of astronomy
- 2 years' experience in working with radio astronomy data
- Proven experience of standard software development methodologies for delivery of production-quality software, such as Scrum
- Knowledge and experience of deep learning
- Proven ability to work in teams under pressure

The ideal candidate will have the following competencies:

Ability to:

- form productive working relationships with a wide range of stakeholders
- publish high-impact research in international journals
- provide technical leadership to small teams
- communicate complex topics to non-specialists
- understand challenges in astronomy data processing and identify appropriate machine learning technologies to address these areas

Experience in:

- development of machine learning and Bayesian technologies and systems for astronomical and other research

Knowledge of:

- Bayesian analysis
- signal processing
- software development methodologies and tools
- radio astronomy

Apply to: careers@ska.ac.za

Closing date: 16 February 2018

As a business unit of the NRF, SKA SA is committed to employment equity and redress

Type of employment: Permanent