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Preparing for science with the SKAO

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As the SKA timeline towards science progresses, the SKAO aims to engage with the user community to define early access to the SKA telescopes through Science Verification planning. This talk will be a distillation of multiple presentations at the SKAO Science meeting in Görlitz earlier this year, focusing on SKAO's work in preparation for full science operations. Furthermore, I will present SKA's evolving science potential and highlight how community access to data and support services will scale at each key operational milestone. By linking scientific capabilities with operational planning, the SKAO hopes to empower the global astronomy community with the tools to explore the full potential of SKA-era science.

Author: KACZMAREK, Jane (SKAO)

Presenter: KACZMAREK, Jane (SKAO)

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