The [Workshop "SKA: Strategic Position and Future Opportunities for Spanish Industry"](#) was held in Madrid on November 23rd as part of the activities of the VIA-SKA project. [VIA-SKA](#) is the feasibility study of Spanish's technological participation in the SKA, funded by the Spanish Ministry for Economy and Competitiveness, MINECO (former MICINN). It aims to survey the Spanish industry for companies and technology centres able to contribute to the design and construction of the SKA.

The workshop, which took place in the Madrid campus of the Spanish National Science Council (Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, CSIC), was opened by the CSIC's Deputy Vice-President for Internationalization, Jesús Ricote, which greeted the more than 70 attendants, mostly from Spanish companies but also from the Spanish academic and technology centres already involved in the SKA.

The sessions started with VIA-SKA PI, Lourdes Verdes-Montenegro, providing details on the status of the Spanish Participation in the SKA (involvement in the protoconsortia of 7 of the SKA Stage 1 Working Packages), milestones, and the road ahead in the SKA next steps. The sessions continued with VIA-SKA Project Manager, Juande Santander-Vela, providing a review of currently available Stage 1 documentation: Project Execution Plan, Work Breakdown Structure, and Request for Proposals. The results of the survey of the industrial capabilities of the Spanish Industry was presented by Ana Perez from Fractal SLNE, the consulting company hired by VIA-SKA to provide support to the study.

Later, members of the groups already participating in the Stage 1 protoconsortia provided details on their own activities as well as the corresponding Working Packages (WPs). At the time of the workshop, there was Spanish involvement the following WPs:

- Dish Arrays (SKA.TEL.DSH): IFCA-CSIC/DICOM-UC, NTE-SENER
- Aperture Arrays and Wide-Field Single-Pixel Feeds (SKA.TEL.LFAA, SKA.AI.MFAA, SKA.AI.WBSPF): IFCA-CSIC/DICOM-UC, UC3M
- Synchronisation & Timing and Signal & Data Transport (SKA.TEL.SAT, SKA.TEL.SADT): UGR, 7Solutions
- Science Data Processor (SKA.TEL.SDP): IAA-CSIC
- Power (SKA.TEL.PWR): CTAER, IAA-CSIC, and several backing companies

The organising committee was particularly pleased by the high level of the Spanish Industry: 15 of the participants presented their companies' profile and main activities, as well as their direct applications to SKA, while the Spanish Association for the Industry of Science (INEUSTAR) and the Spanish Technology Platform for the Industry of Science (INDUCIENCIA) presented the benefits and services they provide to their members, namely companies oriented toward scientific projects.

The conference was closed by a presentation by Georgina Harris and Phil Crosby, from the SKA Office, on the strategic engagement opportunities offered by the SKA, which was delivered through videolink by Georgina Harris. Her presentation was highly welcome, and numerous questions were posed by the industry representatives and VIA-SKA members. Finally, VIA-SKA offered continued support to the attending companies and centres for their next steps of involvement.

The workshop was organised by Lourdes Verdes-Montenegro (IAA-CSIC, VIA-SKA Principal Investigator), Juan de Dios Santander Vela (IAA-CSIC, VIA-SKA Project Manager), Ana Pérez Calpena (Fractal SLNE, VIA-SKA Consultant), Gonzalo Lobo Márquez (CTAER) and Javier Cáceres (INEUSTAR/INDUCIENCIA). Photographs courtesy of Danel Orobengoa (INEUSTAR/INDUCIENCIA). Talks have been made available at the [workshops' programme page](#).

Clockwise, from top-left: Jesús Ricote, CSIC's Deputy Vice-president for Internationalization, and Lourdes Verdes-Montenegro, VIA-SKA PI, during the welcome address; some of the workshop's attendees; Daniel Segovia (UC3M) showing the previous expertise of their group with EMBRACE and SKADS, and future directions for improvement in their Aperture Arrays technology; and Manuel Gallas (Abengoa Solar) showing the sustainable solar energy solutions that his company could provide to the SKA.