

Status of the Thai 40-m Radio Telescope

Phrudth Jaroenjittichai¹; Busaba Kramer^{1,2}; Saran Poshyachinda¹; Boonrucksar Soonthornthum¹
¹*National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand*; ²*Max-Planck-Institute für Radioastronomie*

Since the first light of the 2.4-m Thai National Telescope in 2013, Thailand foresees another great leap forward in astronomy. A project, known as “Radio Astronomy Network and Geodesy for Development” (RANGD) by the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT), has been approved for year 2017-2021, under the Ministry of Science and Technology’s call for STEM-education proposal. A 40-m radio telescope has been planned to operate up to 3-mm observation with prime-focus capability for low frequency and phased array feed receivers. The telescope’s first light is expected in late 2019 with a cryogenics K-band, and subsequently L-band receivers. RFI environment at the site has been investigated and shown to be at reasonable level. Early single-dish science will focus on time domain observations, such as pulsars and transients, outburst and variability of maser and AGN sources.