

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 290

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 08 JUNE
2012 INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 16 - 2012**

**“290. Mr K A Sinclair (COPE-NC) to ask the Minister of Science and
Technology:**

- (1) What is the implementation cost of the phase of the Square
Kilometre Array project in the Northern Cape?**
- (2) Whether local science graduates will be recruited in the recruitment
phase of its employment intake; if not, why not; if so, what are the
relevant details?”**

CW389E

REPLY

1. The National Research Foundation (NRF) has received R1.1 billion from 2003/2004 to 2011/12 through current and capital budget items for Square Kilometre Array (SKA) bid related expenditure. A further R895 million has been allocated in the 2012/13 to 2014/15 MTEF period. The post 2016 implementation costs of the SKA in Africa and Australia will be determined during the SKA preconstruction phase from 2012 to 2016. The global SKA Organisation will coordinate global contributions towards the full

SKA. The target completion date for the SKA construction is 2024 and the total cost to completion will be made known as the design of the SKA is costed and approved.

2. The South African SKA Project Office currently employs South African science graduates and constantly recruits internationally where specialised experience is not available in South Africa. The South African SKA human capital development programme trains South Africans in engineering and science for the skills required in the construction and research of the SKA. Technicians and artisans are also trained through the South African SKA human capital development programme for the construction, operation and maintenance of the SKA. The intention, therefore, is to recruit local graduates to implement the local content of the SKA project.