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Dear Francina Gresse,

Re: Proposed Photovoltaic Energy Plant on Farm Struisbult near Copperton, Northern Cape

This is in response to the letter notifying us of the proposed photovoltaic (PV) solar energy plant on the farm Struisbult (Farm No.104, Portion 1) near Copperton in the Northern Cape as well as the availability of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) for the above-mentioned project and to invite us to raise related comments or concerns.

The South African SKA Project Office (SASPO) is delighted to be notified for these intentions and to be registered as and Interested and Affected Party. In order to respond to your invitation, the SASPO has undertaken a high-level impact assessment of the proposed photovoltaic (PV) facility on SKA stations located nearest to the proposed site. The results are as follows:

- i. The nearest SKA station, with distance to the proposed PV Facility in Struisbult, has been identified as follows: ID 1890, at a distance of approximately 22km
- ii. Based on the distance to the nearest SKA stations, and the information currently available on the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) of the PV installation, this facility poses a low risk of detrimental impact on the SKA;
- iii. As a result of the low risk associated with the PV facility at Struisbult, no mitigation measures are envisaged to be required at this stage of the project. However, the SASPO would like to be kept



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- informed of progress with this project, and reserves the right to further risk assessments at a later stage;
- iv. To perform the assessment recommended above, the following would be required to be provided by the parties concerned:
- a. Provision of detailed inventory list associated with the establishment and operation of the PV facility
 - b. Provision of relevant electromagnetic emission standards that the equipment complies with (ie. CISPR 22 for ICT equipment)
 - c. Any other information that would be relevant to the characteristic electromagnetic emissions generated by the facility, to be discussed in detail at a later stage
- v. The movements of people employed as envisaged may have to be managed properly as not to pose any significant impact to the MeerKat and or SKA facilities
- vi. Any transmitters that are to be established, or have been established, at the site for the purposes of voice and data communication will be required to comply with the relevant AGA regulations concerning the restriction of use of the radio frequency spectrum that applies in the area concerned;

This technical advice is provided by the South African SKA Project Office on the basis of the protection requirements of the SKA in South Africa, and does not constitute legal approval of the renewable energy projects in terms of the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act, the Management Authority, and any regulations or declarations promulgated in respect to the AGA Act.

Regards,

Dr. Adrian Tiplady

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