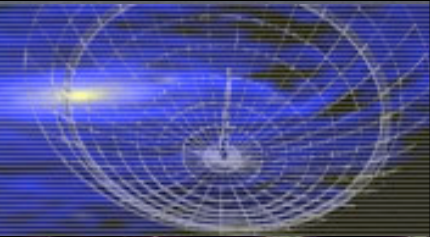




(NETHERLANDS FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH IN ASTRONOMY)



Welcome to ASTRON

Mike Garrett (ASTRON/Swinburne)

NOVA welcome, October 2007.

ASTRON Mission Statement

"Making discoveries in astronomy happen!"

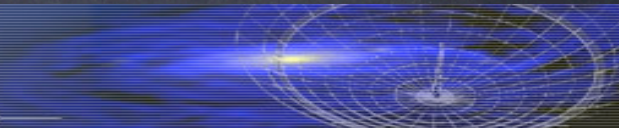
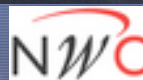
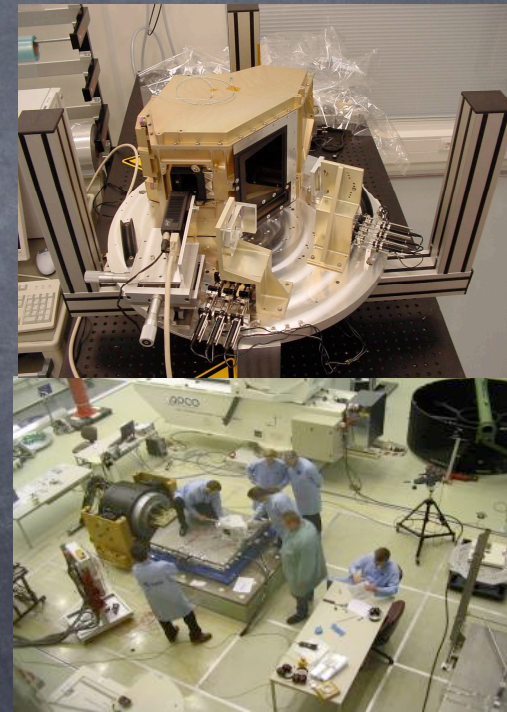
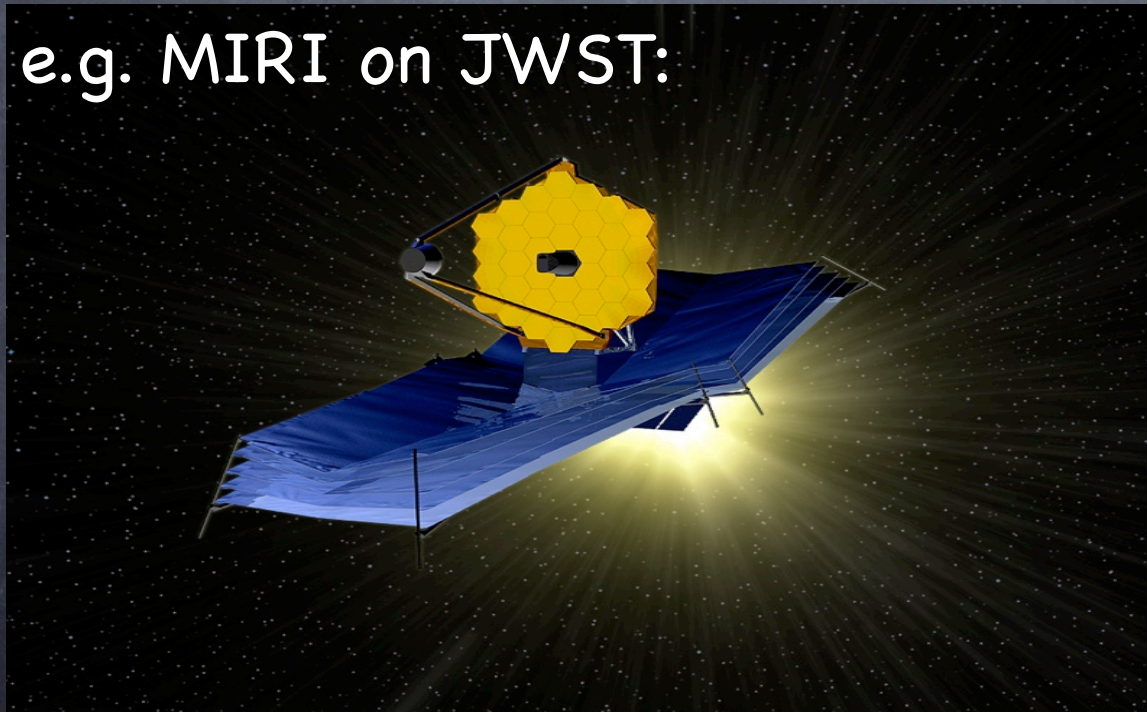
Operation of State of the art facilities:



"Making discoveries in astronomy happen!"

- 👁️ Operation of State of the art facilities
- 👁️ Development of novel and innovative technology for astronomy:

e.g. MIRI on JWST:

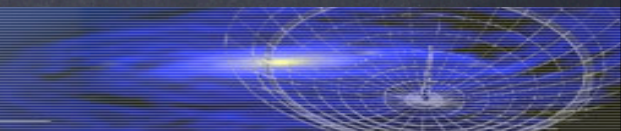
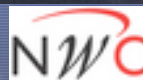
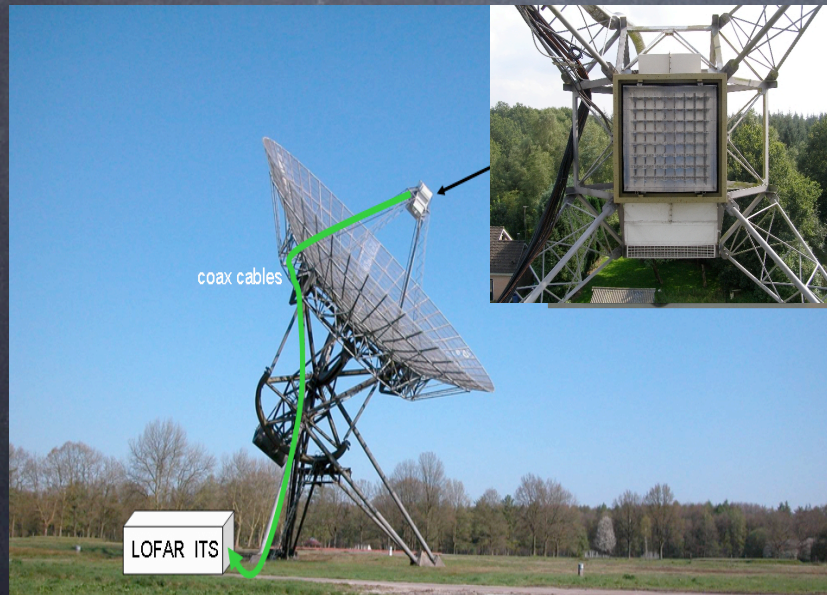


"Making discoveries in astronomy happen!"

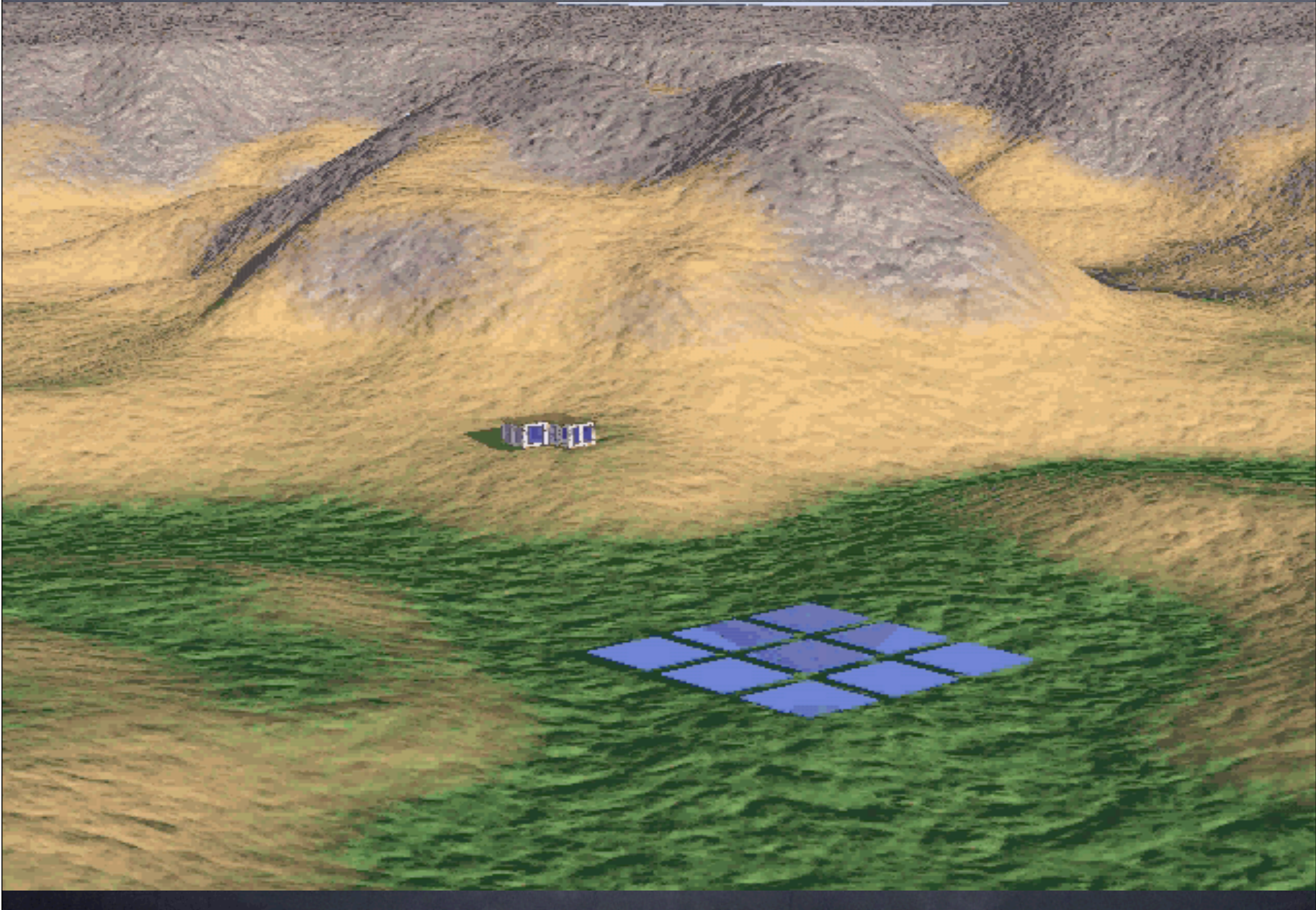
- 👁️ Operation of State of the art facilities
- 👁️ Development of novel and innovative technology for astronomy:

e.g. APERTIF on WSRT

& Apperture Arrays:

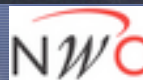
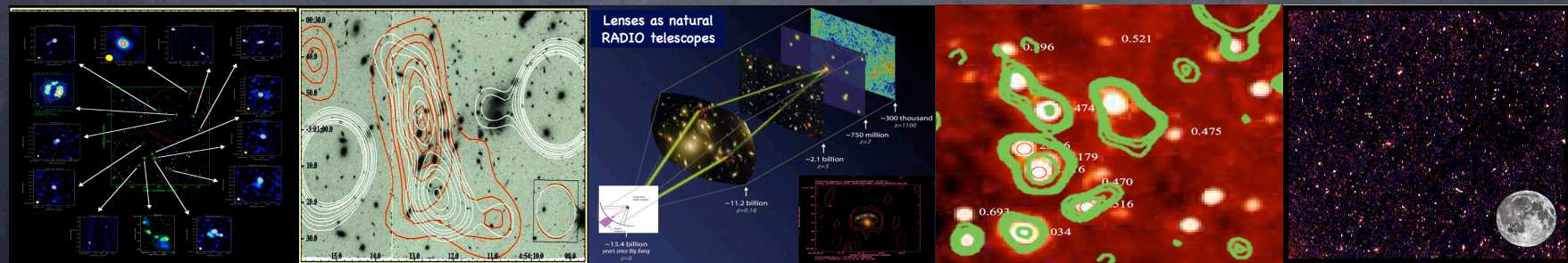
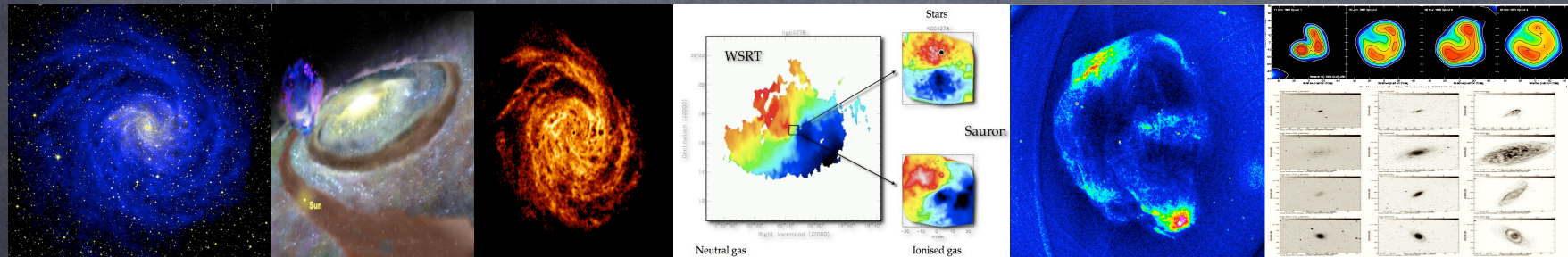


● Aperture Arrays – multiple, independent, simultaneous beams (LOFAR)



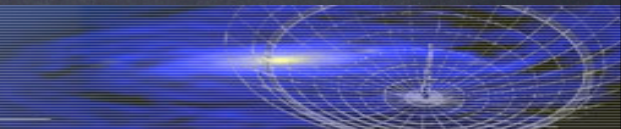
"Making discoveries in astronomy happen!"

- Operation of State of the art facilities
- Development of novel and innovative technology for astronomy
- Fundamental astronomical research:



Facts and Figures:

- Employ ~ 180 staff
- Annual turn-over 16 MEuro
 - Base funding NWO (9 MEuro -2008 onwards)
 - Project funding NWO, regional, EC etc.
- ASTRON hosts JIVE
 - + 40 JIVE staff
- Technological spin-off to commerce/industry
- Institute is a world-leader on the international radio astronomy scene.



LOFAR (ASTRON)

E-LOFAR

Expansion of LOFAR
into Europe...



40 stations

Current status:

Germany ~12 stations

UK ~2-3 stations

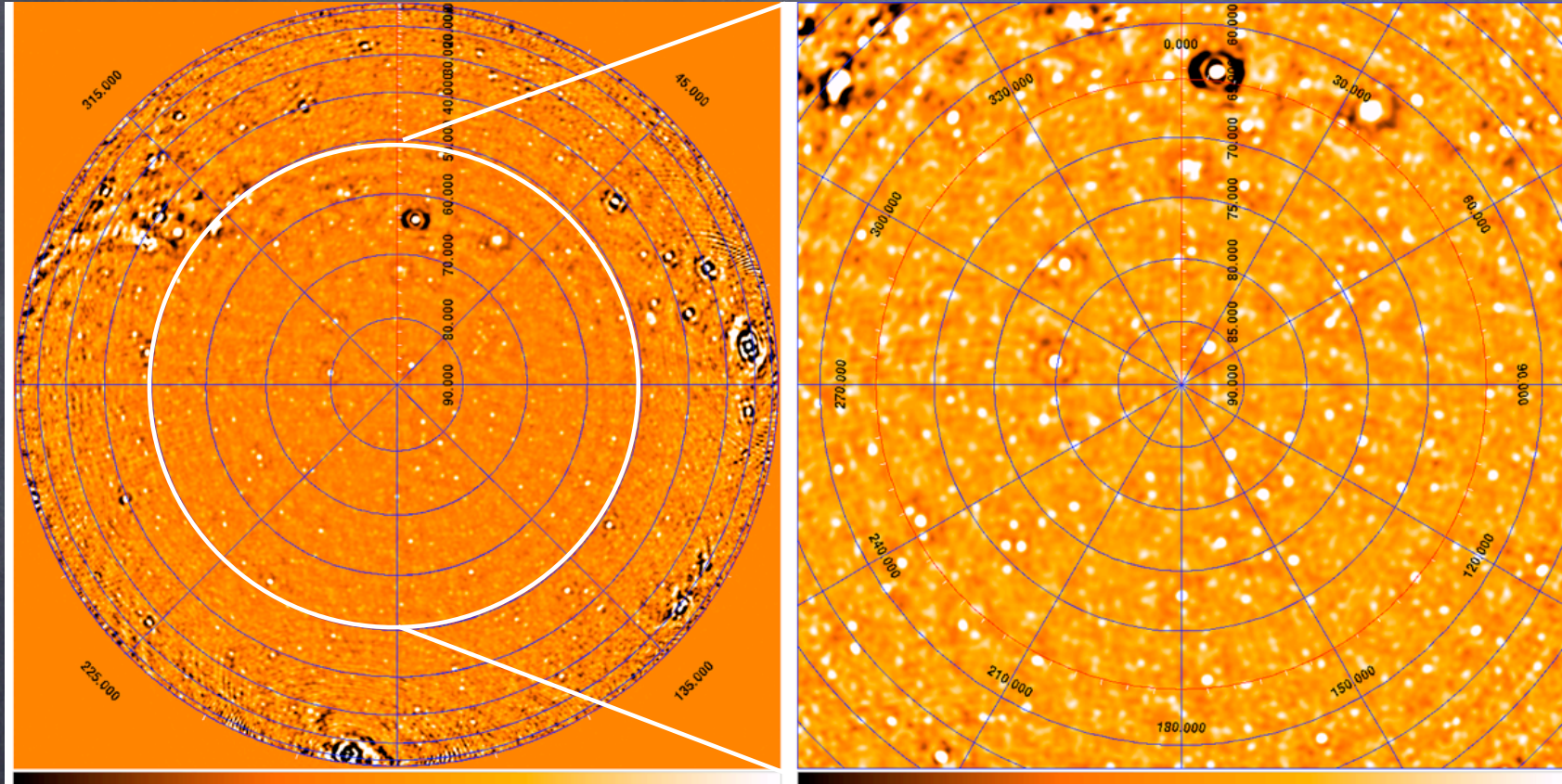
Italy ~2 stations

France ~1 station?

Other EVN sites...

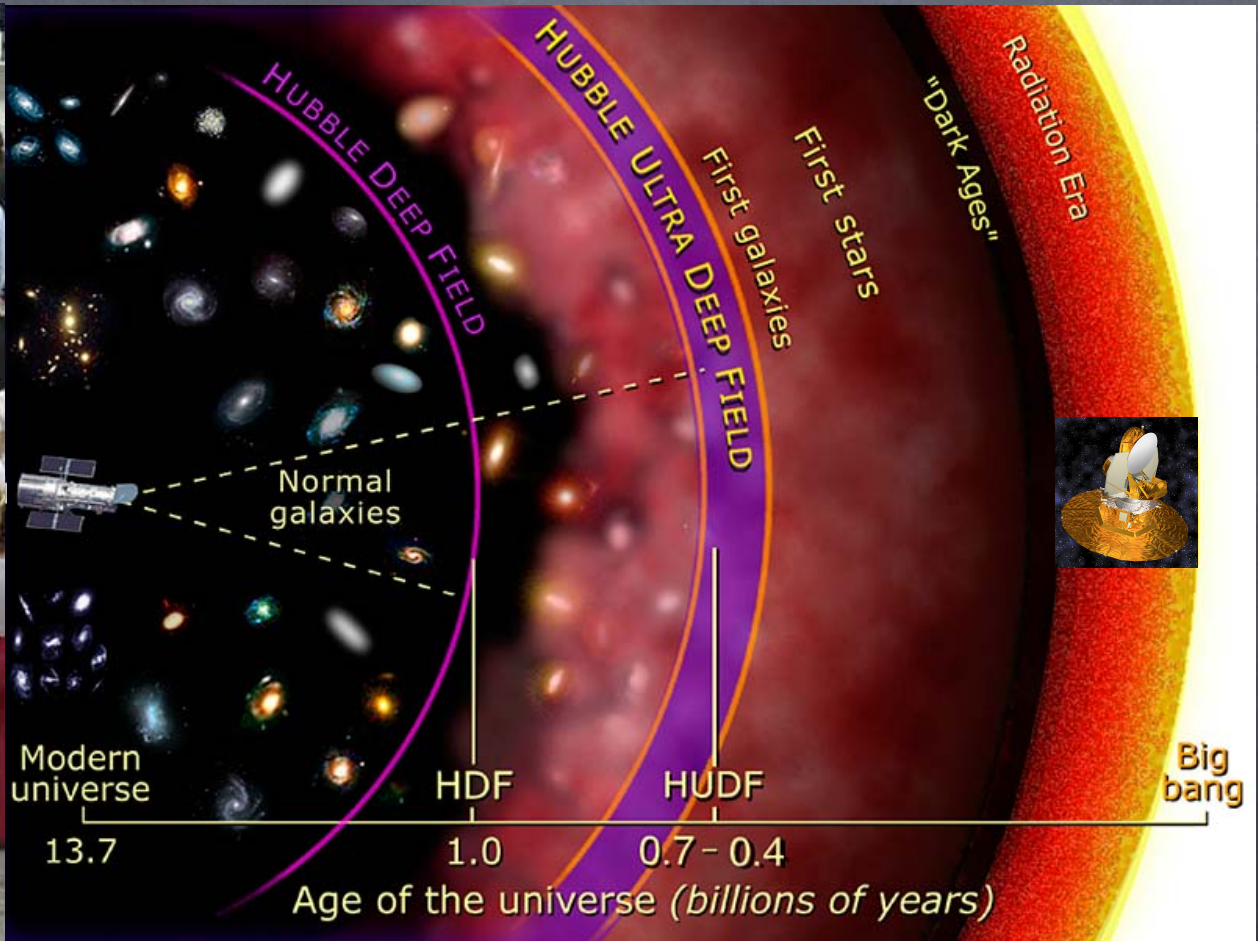


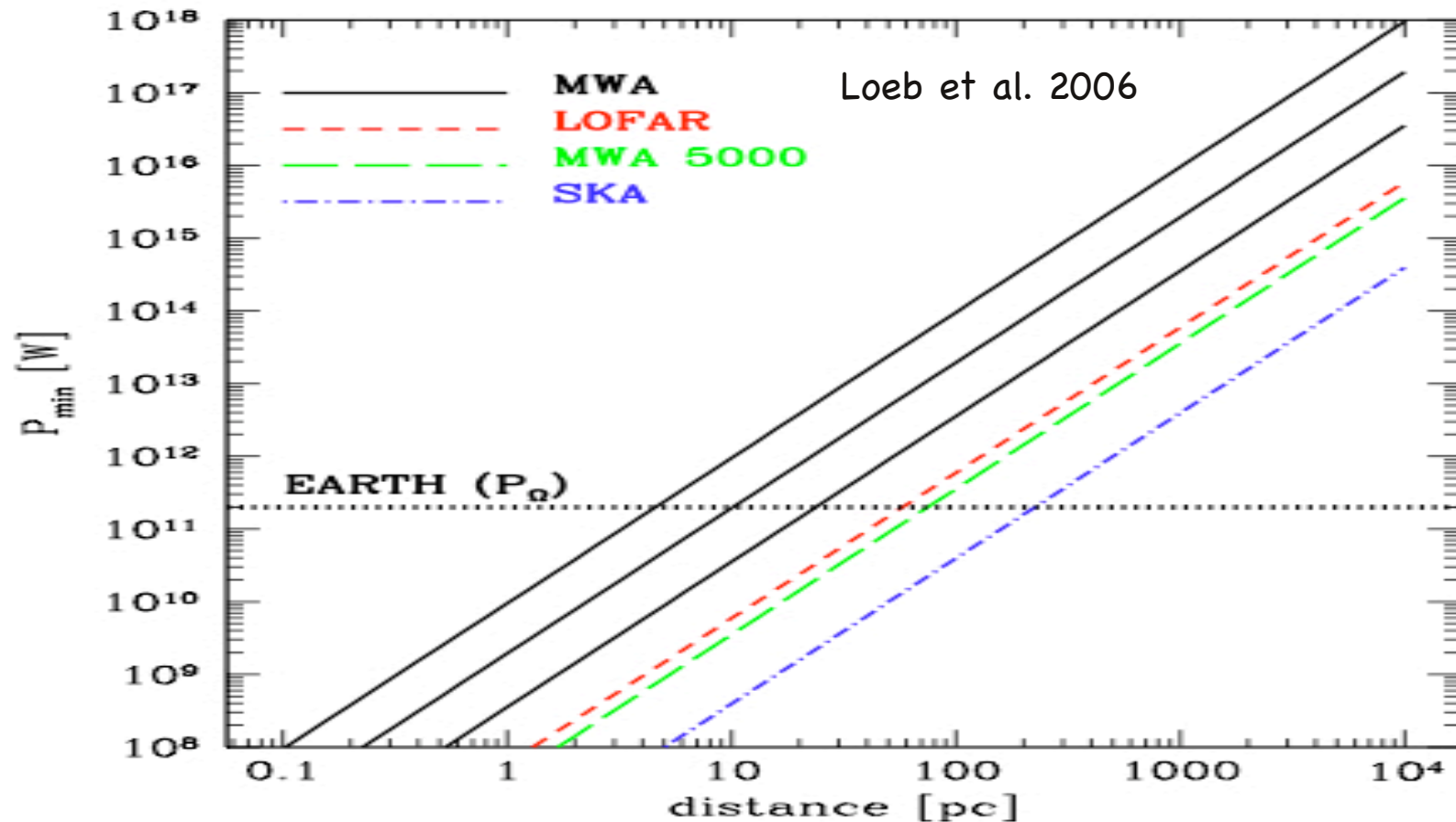
LOFAR first images (see Ger de Bruyn's lecture)



Amazing Field of view – superb survey instrument
– if we can calibrate it!

Understanding the Universe





Maybe possible to detect leakage radiation from nearby Extra-terrestrial Civilisations...



There has never been a better time to do...

RADIO ASTRONOMY!