Some Uncontroversial Remarks

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There is a tide
In the affairs of Man

Which, taken at the flood,
Will lead to riches etc

But...

William Shakespeare

The puzzling tide
against Aperture Arrays

- Moving parts

- The price of metal

- Multi-beaming

- Etc, etc

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- "SKA with dishes: What was that all about?"

But: the tide is turning

- LOFAR exists
  - This makes a LOT of difference in the debate
- Mike Garrett:
  - ...(some very rousing stuff)...
- Alistair MacPherson:
  - "Don't be so defensive about AA"
- Jan Geralt bij de Vaate:
  - "MFAA == SKA"

We have wasted a lot of time

- It is good to have a bread-and-butter solution
    - Vivaldi
- And the LNA looks very promising
    - 40K over 600 MHz is definitely competitive
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- But there must be better frontend solutions
    - Sensitivity, bandwidth, scan angle
    - Beamshape stability (calibration)
    - Manufacturability (cost)

Fortunately...
(thanks to the arcane SKA process)

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- There is still some time for SKA2

  - MFAA is lucky to be excluded from SKA1

  - The MFAA consortium can approach things differently

- But not very much (a few years)

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- How can we use the time most effectively?

Let more people have a go

- 500 BC:
  - Alphabet, cheap paper
- 1500 AD:
  - Bookprinting, protestant education
- 1850 AD:
  - Industrial revolution, educating the lower classes
- 2000 AD?

***Bottom line:* Maximum progress if many more people are involved in thinking about things.**

How to create the conditions?
(i.e. offer the lowest threshold for participation)

- We are talking about a MFAA frontend only
    - Converting the signal to a voltage in a wire

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- Promise an award?
    - That seems to work with robot development

- Provide a backend and an interface?

- Offer EMMA++?

- Other...?