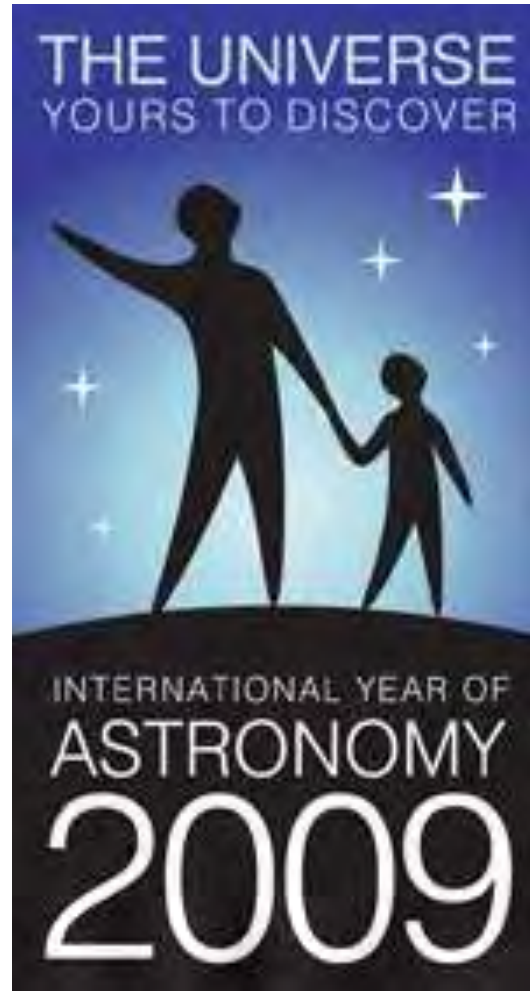


PRA2009: Lessons Learned

The image is a composite of a night city skyline and a field of blue galaxies. The city skyline at the bottom features three prominent, illuminated towers with spires, set against a dark background. The upper two-thirds of the image are filled with a dense field of blue galaxies, including many spiral galaxies and some irregular shapes, all set against a black background. The text 'PRA2009: Lessons Learned' is centered in the upper half of the image in a yellow, sans-serif font.

Wim van Driel

2009: an auspicious year for the PRA Conference

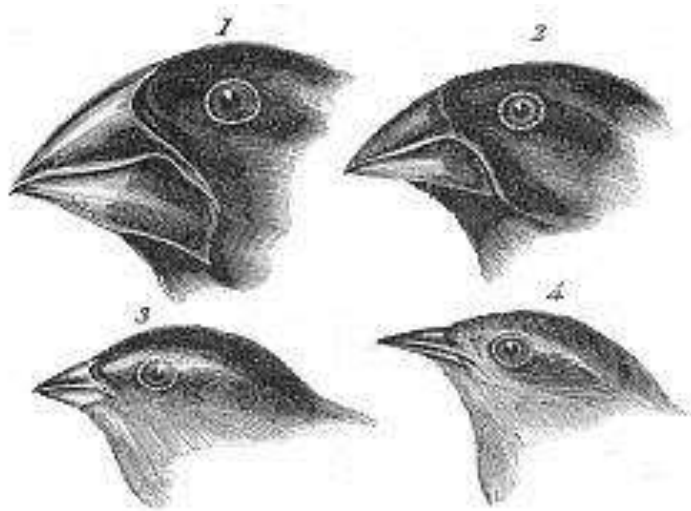


Astronomy
&
Evolution

Evolution in radio astronomy



Lessons learned from Charles Darwin



1. *Geospiza magnirostris*

3. *Geospiza parvula*

2. *Geospiza fortis*

4. *Certhidea olivacea*

Finches from Galapagos Archipelago

1. The Finch

Specialize, or starve

Applies to SKA Precursors and Pathfinders as well...

At the Dawn of the Golden Age of Radio Astronomy



Lessons learned from a previous Golden Age:



The time:

17th century

The place:

The Republic of the
United Seven Provinces
(a.k.a. The Netherlands)

A Golden Age: it's hard work...



Rembrandt's dish design

But it pays off in the end...



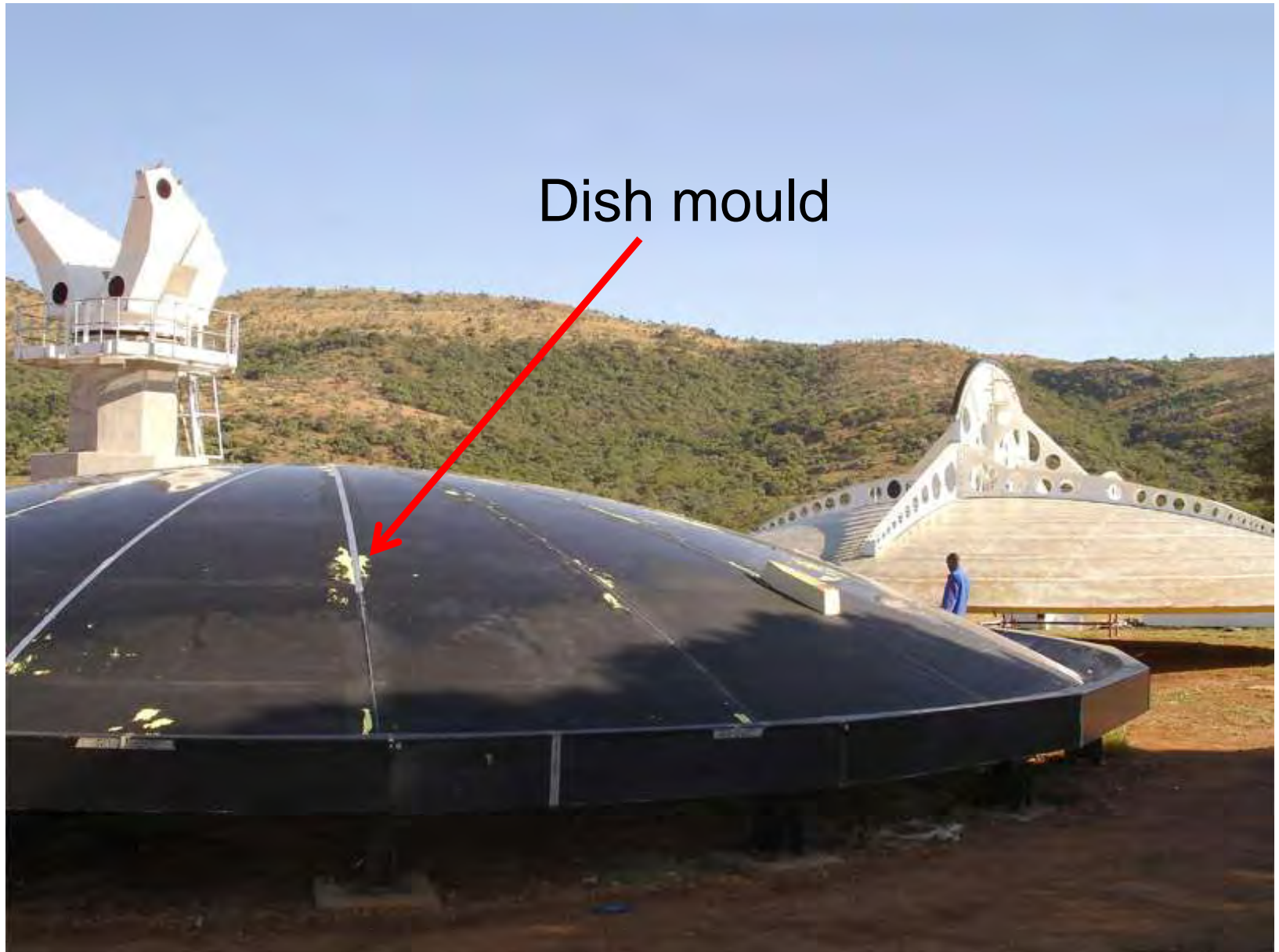
Ensuring it will be *Your* Golden Age

Two competing flagships:

England: 0 Holland: 1
(Chatham)



Unexpected technical problem...



寧為太平犬，不做亂世人

May you live in Interesting Times

(oft mis-cited Chinese curse)

(It's better to be a dog in a peaceful time
than a man in a chaotic period)

Golden Age of Radio Astronomy: pre-dawn picture

