

Iilfu MeerKAT Open Time Project Policies

Date published: 20 November 2025

The following policies are applicable to the Iilfu MeerKAT Open Time projects. These policies apply in conjunction with the [Iilfu Research Facility Policies](#) and the [Iilfu Terms of Use](#). Where other policies contradict this policy, this policy will take precedence.

Eligibility

Eligible MeerKAT Open Time projects are those with a PI or lead technical contact based at a South African institution, or those with strong South African involvement, who have formally been awarded observing time as associated with the current (2025) MeerKAT Call for Open Time Proposals. Applicants must outline the South African involvement in their project. If the applicant is a student, written approval from their supervisor must be provided.

Access

A MeerKAT Open Time project PI must apply for a project on the Iilfu Research Facility by completing the Iilfu MeerKAT [Open Time Project webform](#).

Approved MeerKAT Open Time projects will be supported on the Iilfu Research Facility for a period of one year from the date of receiving the first MeerKAT project observation data. Multi-year MeerKAT Open Time projects must apply for renewed access each year. It is expected that data processing of visibility data is completed as soon as possible upon the completion of observations (nominally within three months) and intermediate data products must be removed (see Iilfu MeerKAT [Open Time Project Guidelines](#)). Calibrated data and scientific data products may be retained for a year. A project may apply to extend this period of access by sending a progress report and justification for the extension to proposals@iilfu.ac.za.

A project that is not renewed will be deactivated at the end of the access period. The project and all associated data will be removed 90 days after deactivation.

MeerKAT Open Time projects will have access to the Iilfu Jupyter service and Iilfu Slurm cluster and will be able to transfer their data using the SARAO-Iilfu data transfer services.

Storage allocation

Each MeerKAT Open Time project will be granted an allocation of 50 TB for mid/long-term project storage. This excludes the storage available on the scratch folder for short term processing requirements. Projects, with storage requirements greater than 50 TB, and all large or multi-year projects, must submit a data management plan, by emailing a document projecting

and justifying their storage requirements to proposals@ilifu.ac.za. Please review the Ilifu MeerKAT [Open Time Project Guidelines](#) for details on efficient use of storage. Justification for an increase to a project's storage allocation must demonstrate successful implementation of the storage guidelines.

Retention of data

Raw data transferred from the SARAO archive will normally be removed from ilifu storage three months after the date of transfer. A project wanting to retain raw data after this period must submit a request with justification to proposals@ilifu.ac.za.