

Status of the RANGD project

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Since the first light of the 2.4-m Thai National Telescope in 2013, Thailand foresees another great leap forward in astronomy. A project known, as “Radio Astronomy Network and Geodesy for Development” (RANGD) by the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) has been approved for year 2017-2021, under the Ministry of Science and Technology’s call for STEM-education proposal. A 40-m radio telescope has been planned to operate up to 3-mm observation with prime-focus capability for low frequency and phased array feed receivers. The telescope’s first light is expected in late 2019 with a cryogenics K-band, and subsequently L-band receivers. RFI environment at the site has been investigated and shown to be at reasonable level. Early single-dish science will focus on time domain observations, such as pulsars and transients, outbursts and variability of sources.