



Royal
Astronomical
Society

The 2024 Service Award (G) is awarded to Professor Ian McCrea

Professor Ian McCrea is awarded the Service Award for his invaluable service to the UK and international space weather research community.

He has directed the UK component of the international EISCAT radar system for several decades, spearheading the operational and scientific capability of the current radar systems.

He has also been one of the driving forces behind the new EISCAT_3D system currently being deployed in Scandinavia, designed to replace the previous system and provide a step-change in our understanding and capabilities in upper atmospheric and solar-terrestrial science.

Most recently, Professor McCrea has spearheaded the £20million UKRI investment into SWIMMR (Space Weather Instrumentation, Measurement, Modelling and Risk), an exceptional five-year programme to turn research tools into operational space weather forecasting capabilities for the UK Met Office.

SWIMMR brings scientists and industry together, through working directly with the UK Met Office and its stakeholders, and has reinvigorated the space weather community across the nation.

The programme provides exceptional tools for the Met Office to use in operational space weather forecasting, but also directly fuels a new generation of space weather researchers who are already transforming their careers, through academic positions, research fellowships and into key positions in industry.

His colleagues and collaborators testify to the enormous impact Professor McCrea has had through his service towards retaining and increasing the space weather community both through EISCAT, EISCAT-3D and the UK SWIMMR programme.

For these reasons Professor Ian McCrea is awarded the Service Award.