

**SETI 2020 – A ROADMAP FOR THE
NEXT TWENTY YEARS OF SETI RESEARCH**

Thomas Pierson
SETI Institute, Mountain View, California, USA

In July, 1973 NASA published *Project Cyclops – A Design Study of a System for Detecting Extraterrestrial Intelligent Life*. This volume, which resulted from a Stanford / NASA / Ames Research Center 1971 summer faculty fellowship effort, provided a roadmap for SETI research for the balance of the 20th century. The principal editor of this volume was Dr. Bernard M. Oliver, Vice President for R&D for the Hewlett-Packard company. The study represented the best thinking of the time by industrialists and academicians interested in the field of SETI. During the final three decades of the 20th century, *Project Cyclops* served not only as the roadmap intended by the authors, but also as an effective recruiting tool read by many graduate students who eventually formed a new generation of SETI researchers.

As we approached the new millennium, the SETI Institute commissioned a series of workshops and has produced a new seminal report entitled *SETI 2020*. Workshop participants included premier radio astronomers and related scientists from around the world working alongside a cadre of the finest leaders of the technology industry and SETI Institute researchers. The major goal was to produce a plan for new directions for SETI searches and systems over the years 2000 to 2020. The fusion of high tech visionaries and world class scientists produced three primary focus areas for SETI research. The plan incorporates innovative scientific thinking with the technology advances expected over the next twenty years. Without question, the report *SETI 2020* will serve as a guidepost for next generation SETI.

This paper will review the key points of *SETI 2020*, and describe progress to date as the SETI community marches forward to the 21st century.