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THE VERY SMALL ARRAY: PROOF-OF-CONCEPT FOR ARRAY2K

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The nonprofit SETI League began conceptual design work in 1999 on Array2k, a planned phased array of satellite TV dishes, to be used as a SETI radio telescope of unique flexibility. Although the funding required to implement this design still eludes us, The SETI League has amassed, through a multitude of small contributions, the resources necessary to permit us to begin construction of a small-scale prototype. Thus, an eight-dish Very Small Array (VSA) is now taking shape in the backyard of the author's rural Pennsylvania home. This paper shows how donated dishes, student labor and volunteer design work are being combined to test a high-tech concept on a shoestring budget.