ESA Science Programme



- Cosmic Vision process selected several candidates
- Astronomy:
 - A dark energy mission (DUNE or SPACE)
 - PLATO Next generation planet finder
 - SPICA SPace IR telescope (with JAXA)
 - XEUS X-ray observatory
- Solar System:
 - Cross-Scale multi-scale coupling in space plasmas
 - Laplace (Europa & Jupiter) or TANDEM (Titan & Enceladus)
 - Marco Polo Near-Earth-Object sample return mission
- Larger missions will compete with LISA for first slot.
- SCI will become SRE (Science & Robotic Exploration).

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ISOC Status



- Operations running smoothly, no major problems.
- Currently running call for AO-6 Key Programme proposals.
- Some issues over last months planning specific revolutions, traced back to different constraint checking between MOC and ISOC.
- Staff has evolved significantly in recent months.

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ISOC Staff

- Software engineers M. Bindels & P. Balm have left and were replaced by Silvia de Castro and Pieter Jan Baeck (former YGT).
- Handover of development work went mostly smoothly, but not completely without 'hiccups' - see next slide.
- Rees Williams withdraws from ISOC for personal reasons end of November.
- Marion Cadolle Bel has been selected as replacement.







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AO-6 Preparation



- Call for Key Programmes released on time **22 Oct**.
- Deadline for KP proposal submission **30 Nov**.
- X new proposals received up to now.
- TAC decision on Key Programmes mid January, Key Programme freeze for end January.
- Tentative Schedule:

General review of AO documentation: 21-25 Jan

Proposal submission: 10 Mar - 18 Apr

TAC meeting: 26-29 May

New AO observations start: 16 Aug

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MOC



- In transition to implement new operations concept (shared teams for XMM & Integral). Some loss in expertise. Effort on cross-training.
- Changes & special wishes will take longer to implement. Reporting will be reduced. Lower guaranteed performance.
- The A & B hardware chains will be separated to improve safety ⇒ new IP addresses for B chain.

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E(P)SAC News



- Steadily growing centre including new buildings.
 Herschel building up to full strength, but also
 planetary missions arriving. ⇒ Change to EPSAC.
- Formal inauguration early 2008 by Prince of Asturias.
- Clear commitment by ESA and Spain to have science operations at EPSAC.
- Head of ESAC, Vicente Gómez, also Head of science operations department (SCI-O).
- Astronomy operations division (SCI-OA) currently led by A. Parmar.
- Science activities increasing through Faculty and more Research Fellows (new ones sought!).

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