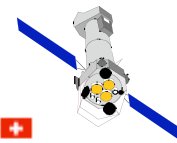

XMM-Newton Users Group Meeting 9

May 6–7, 2008

Summary of Action Items

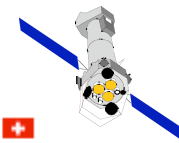


XMM-Newton

Matthias Ehle - SCI-OAX

Actions

- **2007-06-07/13: On the Users Group**, the UG should provide the XMM-Newton SOC with two or three typical **examples of slew surveys**, with details about the needs on exposure time, sensitivity to be achieved, sky area to be covered and typical sky position. Deadline: end of June, 2007.
NS provided Flight Dynamics with two cases ✓
- **2006-06-07/14: On the EPIC team**, to report on the impact of reducing the **overhead for EPIC-pn thin, medium and thick filter exposures in modified mosaicing mode**, by using a **fixed offset table. ✓**
- **2007-06-07/15: On the Users Group**, the UG should write the **scientific requirements of the RGS multi-pointing mode**, when it is recommended to be used and how many observations are expected to benefit from it. ✓

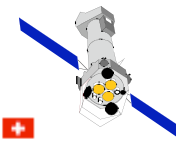


XMM-Newton

Matthias Ehle - SCI-OAX

Recommendations (I)

- **2006-05-19/33:** As far as possible, the UG recommends regular **updates of 2XMM catalogue** in an incremental fashion plus periodic reprocessing of the archive. ✓
(Standard Procedure)
- **2006-05-19/37:** The UG recommends that the XMM- Newton project and the instrument teams study **slow-slew observing and modified mosaicing modes**. ✓
- **2007-06-08/39:** The priority for timing modes of EPIC-pn needs to be focused on solving the **current problems of the timing and burst calibration**. Only after they are fixed, the UG would be glad to revise its recommendation about the **modified timing**. For the time being, the modified timing mode should only be made available on a case by case basis. ✓

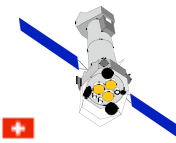


XMM-Newton

Matthias Ehle - SCI-OAX

Recommendations (II)

- **2007-06-08/45:** The UG recommends that the Background Working Group makes a study of the needs for **closed filter data**. (Partly closed) ✓
- **2007-06-07/42:** To introduce a **new proposal type for very large programs**, asking for 1-3 Ms of time and to increase the time dedicated to large and very large programs to about 30% of the total available time for priority A and B observations. The distribution of time between Large and Very Large Programs shall be left flexible to allow OTAC decisions be based on the expected scientific outcome. ✓

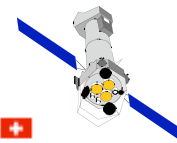


XMM-Newton

Matthias Ehle - SCI-OAX

Recommendations (III)

- **2007-06-07/43:** Data resulting from observations of **Very Large Programs will be immediately public**, but principal investigators **can request a period of proprietary rights** on the data. This request shall be explicitly mentioned in the scientific justification submitted for OTAC review and within the same page limits that are applied to Large Programs. ✓
- **2007-06-08/47:** The UG recommends that the **target visibility tool** on the XMM-Newton web site provides ways to provide the astronomers with an assessment on whether a given target can only be scheduled at the revolution ends. To this end, a **link should be provided to the report on the background behaviour with time.** ✓

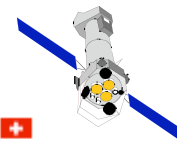


XMM-Newton

Matthias Ehle - SCI-OAX

Recommendations (IV)

- **2007-06-08/44:** The UG recommends that SOC and SSC come with a clear plan for **handling failed processing issues**. The plan should detail a procedure that allows a report to be issued when six months after an observation is performed, the corresponding data-set has not been processed and ODF and PPS products have not been made available to the principal investigator. This report has to include a complete analysis of the problem and an assessment on whether the data is processable or not. It will be reference for the Project Scientist to decide whether there is a need for the field to be re-observed. The decision will be taken shortly after. ✓ **(Procedure established and working)**

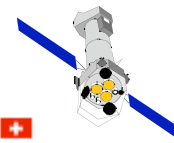


XMM-Newton

Matthias Ehle - SCI-OAX

Endorsements (I)

- **2006-05-19/11:** The UG endorses the **future plans for calibration improvements**, with particular emphasis on the **following areas:**
 - Solve the **high energy discrepancies** between EPIC-pn and MOS
 - Pursue the development of **background estimation tools**
 - Develop the **off-axis PSF**
 - Further improve the **RGS calibration**
- ✓

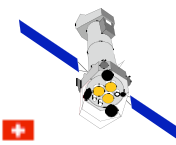


XMM-Newton

Matthias Ehle - SCI-OAX

Endorsements (II)

- **2007-06-07/15** The UG endorses current OTAC policy that allows **OTAC chairpersons to be principal investigators of Large Programs** but in this case they can only take part of the discussion in the OTAC chairperson meeting, without rating the Large Program proposals. ✓
- **2007-06-08/17** The UG endorses the new AO policy which allows to **propose ToO observations** of targets whose coordinates are not known at the time of writing. ✓

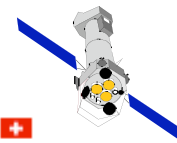


XMM-Newton

Matthias Ehle - SCI-OAX

Endorsements (III)

- **2007-06-08/16:** The UG endorses the currently applied SOC policy: Observations that were given highest priority by OTAC, i.e. **priority A, are scheduled**, when all observing constraints allow it, **away from the ends of the science window**. This is because, at both ends, the probability for the radiation background to be high is significantly greater than anywhere else in the orbit. ✓
- **2007-06-08/46:** The UG strongly recommends that the above policy (e.g. **endorsement 2007-06-08/16**) is highlighted in the **OTAC instructions and guidelines**, to ensure that it is considered by the panels when prioritizing the observations. ✓



XMM-Newton

Matthias Ehle - SCI-OAX