

**EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY**

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**ASTRONOMY WORKING GROUP**

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**Recommendation on extension to the Integral mission**

At its 116<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 8-9<sup>th</sup> October 2003 in the Space Expo Centre, Noordwijk (NL), the Astronomy Working Group (AWG) was briefed on the first year of operations of the Integral Observatory and asked to approve a rolling 4-year mission extension until December 2008.

The AWG expressed its general satisfaction with the current status of the mission and its initial science returns. It was recognized that complementarity with XMM-Newton provides a powerful and unique tool for the exploration of many high-energy phenomena and the AWG anticipates important, high-profile advances within this extension period.

**The AWG recommends approval of the 4-year rolling extension and, in two years time, the AWG expects to review and endorse the science case for the latter two years of the requested 4-year extension.**