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EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

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ASTRONOMY WORKING GROUP

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Recommendation on the extension of the XMM-Newton mission

At its 116th meeting held on 8-9 October 2003 in the Space Expo Centre, Noordwijk (NL), the Astronomy Working Group (AWG) was briefed on the status of ESA's XMM-Newton satellite, and asked to approve an extension of the XMM-Newton operations until 31 March 2008, i.e. for a further 2 years beyond the existing recommendation.

The AWG commends the current excellent science return from this ESA cornerstone project. This is a world class mission, and is now efficiently delivering data to the community. **The AWG strongly recommends the proposed extension**, and anticipates that the current level of productivity will continue over the expected lifetime of the mission.

The AWG urges the Executive to continue their efforts to review any possible source of cost savings.