

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

ASTRONOMY WORKING GROUP

Recommendation on Adoption of the

James Webb Space Telescope ESA Science Management Plan

At its 117th meeting held on 15-16 January 2004 in ESA Headquarters, Paris, the Astronomy Working Group (AWG) discussed a draft ESA Science Management Plan for the European participation in the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), which was introduced at the meeting by Peter Jakobsen, the ESA Project Scientist for JWST.

The plan describes the structure of the scientific advisory bodies of the JWST project, and opportunities for European scientists for participation during the development phase. It briefly describes the status of Guaranteed Time Observers (GTOs), and the expected allocation of GTO time. The general policies for General Observer time and for data access rights are summarized.

The participation of ESA in JWST ensures that the European astronomical community will have access to the observing time on JWST on equal footing with US astronomers, with a guarantee of at least 15% of the open observing time for European astronomers.

An important additional opportunity for participation of European scientists in JWST is through membership of the NIRSpec Instrument Science Team. An Announcement of Opportunity to fill six positions on this team is expected to be issued in February or March 2004. The NIRSpec Team will collectively hold 900 hours of GTO time, and advise the Project Scientist on the best use of this time for the benefit of European astronomy.

The European MIRI Consortium will be represented on the MIRI Instrument Science Team, and will be responsible for 50% of the GTO time (i.e., 450 hours) for that instrument. In the opinion of the AWG this time would also be used best if dedicated to large coherent projects.

The AWG recommends approval of the ESA Science Management Plan for the James Webb Space Telescope.