

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

ASTRONOMY WORKING GROUP

Recommendation on revision of the Planck Science Management Plan

At the 117th meeting held on 15-16 January 2004 at ESA Headquarters, Paris, the Astronomy Working Group (AWG) considered the proposed updating of the Planck Science Management Plan from the version approved by AWG, SSAC and SPC in May 1997 (ESA/SPC(97)27).

The AWG supports the revised version of the Science Management Plan, which includes the addition of the Planck Science Office to maximize the scientific return of the mission, and replacement of the impractical external Announcement of Opportunity by an Early Release Compact Source Catalogue.

In addition, the complementarity between ESA's Herschel and Planck missions means that many of these sources would be strong candidates for follow-up observations with Herschel. The limited lifetime of Herschel means this synergy can only be exploited if the catalogue is released substantially before the final Announcement of Opportunity for the community to propose for time on Herschel.

The AWG therefore recommends approval of the changes to the Science Management Plan by the SPC, and urges ESA to coordinate the scientific schedules of the Planck and Herschel missions.