

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

ASTRONOMY WORKING GROUP

Recommendation on Herschel Observing Programmes

The Astronomy Working Group (AWG) at its 117th meeting held on 15-16 January 2004 at ESA Headquarters, Paris, considered the document “Herschel Space Observatory Observing Programmes” (HSC/DOC/0369), dated 9 January 2004.

This document complements and clarifies the previously adopted Herschel Science Management Plan (SMP).

The major changes introduced with respect to the SMP are:

- decoupling Open Time (OT) and Guaranteed Time (GT) for Key Projects (KP),
- simplification of KP rules for minor GT owners,
- requirements for KP time applicants to demonstrate data reduction capabilities, and make the data products and reduction tools public at the end of the proprietary period,
- shortening of the proprietary period for all observations.

The AWG welcomes this progress, especially regarding the availability of the data products and reduction tools, and the shortening of the proprietary period.

Considering that Herschel is a time limited mission, and in order to maximize its scientific return, the AWG recommends clarification that the data proprietary period starts at the date of the observation, and that the schedules for data release and Announcements of Opportunities be adjusted to maximize the amount of data in the public domain by the time of the post-launch AOs.

On this basis, the AWG endorses the document Herschel/HSC/DOC/0369, and recommends that the SMP be amended accordingly.