

**EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY**

**ASTRONOMY WORKING GROUP**

**Recommendation on *Odin***

At the 117<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 15-16 January 2004 at ESA Headquarters, Paris, the Astronomy Working Group (AWG) considered the request to ESA from the Swedish National Space Board to support the operations of the *Odin* astronomy mission for 1 year from April 2004 at a cost of 1.0 M€

The AWG recognised the value of *Odin's* first 3 years of scientific achievements – the water vapour observations in several astrophysical environments and the low abundance limits determined for oxygen in molecular clouds, for example – and is aware of potential synergy with the *Herschel* mission.

Considering the long integration times required and the limited number of viable targets, the AWG is of the opinion that *Odin* is suited as a PI mission but does not offer sufficient scientific opportunities to the broader ESA community.

**Therefore and given the present financial climate, the AWG regrets that it cannot recommend the requested ESA support to *Odin* operations.**