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EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY
SOLAR SYSTEM WORKING GROUP

Recommendation on the Bepi-Colombo and Solar Orbiter

At its 118th meeting held on 27th April 2005 at the Austria Centre, Vienna, the Solar System Working Group (SSWG) heard presentations about the status of the Bepi-Colombo and Solar Orbiter studies. The SSWG reaffirms its very strong support for these missions, and in particular notes that the timely implementation of Bepi-Colombo in 2012 and Solar Orbiter in 2013 remains of prime importance in order to maintain compatibility with international partners.

The SSWG also received a report of the Bepi-Colombo payload funding, noting that there were problems in some areas. The SSWG urges that the project scientist and solar system mission coordinator ensure that a payload commensurate with the scientific goals of the mission is in place by late 2005.