

## **The Prospects of the Portuguese Astrophysics Community towards the Exploration and Utilisation of the Moon**

*M. Almeida, M. Roos-Serote, Centre of Astronomy and Astrophysics of the University of Lisbon (CAAUL), Portugal*

The Astrophysics community in Portugal is young and small but developing and expanding rapidly. Planetary and space science is even a younger area of research. (see the website at [www.oal.ul.pt/~roos/cept.html](http://www.oal.ul.pt/~roos/cept.html) for a presentation of the portuguese planetary and space science community). However, at this moment, no research is done about the Moon. Portugal has recently joined the European Space Agency. This opens many new possibilities for scientific activities in the area of astrophysics and planetary and space science.

In this presentation I will address the results of a sounding amongst the members of the Portuguese scientific community about the interest in lunar exploration and utilization:

how can the Portuguese scientists add valuable contributions and expertise to the lunar exploration programme, and what scientific benefits can be expected.

In particular, I will present the interest in the SMART-1 project.