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EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

SOLAR SYSTEM WORKING GROUP

Statement on Cosmic Vision

At the 122nd meeting of the Solar System Working Group (SSWG) held on 5 October 2006 at ESA Headquarters, Paris, the SSWG was informed of the present status of the scientific programme. This included a question and answer session with the Director of Science.

The SSWG remains strongly convinced of the scientific case for Solar Orbiter and continues to support the implementation of the existing programme.

Furthermore, the SSWG regrets the decision to delay the Announcement of Opportunity for Cosmic Vision and strongly feels that this is wasting time needed to develop new technologies required by the ambitions of the European scientific community.