

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

SOLAR SYSTEM WORKING GROUP

Recommendation on the Payload Review Committee of Solar Orbiter

At its 126th meeting held on January 14-15 2008 at ESA Headquarters, Paris, the Solar System Working Group (SSWG) discussed the payload selection process for Solar Orbiter. In view of the installation of the "Payload Review Committee" (PRC) for Solar Orbiter, as foreseen by the Science Management Plan (SMP), the SSWG recommends to the ESA executive that the following rules are observed when selecting PRC members:

- Any person directly involved (principal investigator or co-investigator) in an instrument proposal for Solar Orbiter should be excluded from PRC membership.
- Individuals with management responsibility over institutes hosting PIs of instrument proposals for Solar Orbiter should be equally excluded from PRC membership.
- Any other scientist from institutes hosting PIs is in principle eligible for PRC membership if they are not actively involved in the proposal. In particular, retired scientists of such institutes can be considered. PRC members in this situation will not be allowed to take part in the evaluation of proposals with which they have an institutional conflict of interest.

In any case, the SSWG recommends that any PRC member should be asked to state, in writing to the PRC chairman, the precise relation they have (if any) with the proposals under review.