

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

SOLAR SYSTEM WORKING GROUP

Recommendation on the continued role of ESA in Cassini

At its 126th meeting held on January 14-15 2008 at ESA Headquarters, Paris, the Solar System Working Group (SSWG) discussed the role of ESA in the collaborative ESA/NASA Cassini/Huygens mission after the formal end of the Huygens part. The SSWG understands that without an ESA project office, Cassini essentially becomes a NASA only mission despite the presence onboard of several European instruments.

The members of the SSWG expect that a continued ESA support for the science exploitation of the Cassini could be a very cost-effective way for the coordination and visibility of the outer solar system research community in Europe that is preparing for the LAPLACE or TANDEM missions. **The SSWG thus invites the ESA executive to study the need and opportunity for further support to the Cassini mission.**