



First Announcement

Herschel Open Time Key Program Workshop

Organised by the Herschel Science Centre (HSC)

Co-sponsored by the NASA Herschel Science Center (NHSC) and supported by the Herschel Principal Investigator (PI) Consortia (SPIRE, PACS, and HIFI)

Scientific Organisation: Herschel Science Team

Local Organisation: Herschel Science Centre

Venue: 20-21 February 2007, in ESTEC, Noordwijk, The Netherlands

Background

The Herschel Space Observatory (aka Herschel) is the next major astronomical observatory in the ESA science program. Herschel is currently planned to be launched in 2008, and will offer three years of routine science operations for the astronomical community, commencing approximately six months after the launch.

Herschel will target the far infrared and submillimetre universe and is intended to be a facility for the entire astronomical community. Approximately two thirds of the Herschel time available for conducting astronomical observations is open time, which will be allocated to the community through a traditional competitive proposal process.

A major fraction of the total observing time will be dedicated to so-called Key Programs. These programs should have the following characteristics:

- exploit unique Herschel capabilities to address (an) important scientific issue(s) in a comprehensive manner,
- require a large amount of observing time to be used in a uniform and coherent fashion, and
- produce a resulting well characterized dataset of high archival value.

It is clear that the scientific motivation for an observing programme needing a particularly large amount of observing time has to be particularly high and well motivated. The resulting dataset should be likely to be used by a broad community for a number of investigations of high scientific merit.

The Announcement of Opportunity (AO) for Key Program observing proposals is to be issued on 1 February 2007, and the deadline of the Open Time Key Program proposal submission is set for 25 October 2007. The reserved observations of the Guaranteed Time Key Programs will be officially communicated on 5 July 2007, but the preliminary program contents will be broadly known and communicated by the time of the workshop.

Workshop Objectives

The goal of this workshop is to advertise the Herschel Key Program AO to the general scientific community, and to encourage participation. More specifically ESA wants to maximise community involvement and response to the AO, ideally putting every astronomer who would like to propose in a position to do so, in order to facilitate the greatest possible achievable science return and impact of Herschel.

A specific objective is a dedicated attempt to attract the part of the astronomical community which does not necessarily feel as 'belonging' to the Herschel or even the (far) infrared or submillimetre communities.

This is proposed to be done by providing the workshop participants with detailed information on the imaging and spectroscopic capabilities of Herschel, general information about the mission, the AO, and the Guar-



teed Time Key Programs, and furthermore by providing a forum for the community to present their ideas, for communication and an opportunity to interact directly with members of the HSC, NHSC, the PI consortia, and the Herschel Science Team.

The specific objectives are:

- Inform the general astronomical community on the exciting scientific opportunities offered by Herschel in the area of far infrared and submillimetre imaging and spectroscopy,
- Provide insight in and detailed information on the Herschel imaging and spectroscopic capabilities and characteristics,
- Provide preliminary information about the Guaranteed Time Key Program observing programs under preparation for submission,
- Provide putative Open Time Key Programs proposers with an opportunity to present ideas for Open Time Key Programs,
- Provide putative Open Time Key Programs proposers with details in the area of astronomical observing templates, observation planning, data reduction, and data products and archiving,
- Provide a forum where putative Open Time Key Program participants can meet each other and exchange ideas, and interact directly with members of the HSC, NHSC, the PI consortia, and the Herschel Science Team.

Preliminary workshop outline

The outline of the workshop is foreseen to be as follows:

- Day 1 morning: General information Herschel, AO, instrument and science performance presentations, and overviews of GT Key Programs in preparation for submission.
 - The Herschel Project Scientist and the Herschel PIs will do this. At some convenient time there will be a coffee/tea break.
- Lunch in the ESTEC canteen on a personal basis.
- Day 1 early afternoon: GT Key Program posters attended.
 - The intention is to have one poster per GT Key Program under preparation, the posters should be '(wo)manned' during a period of time to be defined in order to enable (informal) discussions to be initiated by any interested workshop participant.
 - coffee/tea break
- Day 1 late afternoon: Short 'poster-pops' for OT Key Program posters, then posters attended.
 - Posters presenting OT Key Program ideas/concepts will be solicited, the posters should be '(wo)manned' during a period of time to be defined immediately following the 'poster-pops' in order to enable (informal) discussions to be initiated by any interested workshop participant. The duration of the 'poster-pops' will depend on the number of posters.
- Day 1 early evening: Social in the Space Expo (outside but next to ESTEC), with a 'before-dinner' talk on the subject of 'The infrared universe as seen by Spitzer, and beyond' by Mike Werner.
 - The intention is to offer some light refreshments, and an opportunity to mingle while looking at the exhibition before the talk.
- Day 1 evening: 'Free time' for dinner on personal basis (not in the Space Expo).
- Day 2 morning: Parallel sessions on galactic and extragalactic detailed observing program planning.
 - Two parallel sessions are deemed necessary for time reasons. The idea is to take examples from a number of the GT Key Programs under preparation in order to illustrate how to plan Herschel observations. Solar system object observations will be also be included. Note that this is not a hands-on dedicated observation planning tool (HSpot) workshop, this will be organised later.
- Lunch in the ESTEC canteen on a personal basis.
- Day 2 afternoon: GT & OT Key Program poster session, and in parallel time for ad-hoc splinter meetings for potential OT groups
- Day 2 towards end of afternoon: Wrap-up/questions-and-answers/community feedback session.



A more detailed workshop program will be part of the Second Announcement. This preliminary outline may be optimised depending on the response to the announcement, but all points indicated should be part of the final program.

All presentations and posters will be made available through the HSC website immediately after the event, there will be no formal workshop proceedings.

Registration

Please register your participation early in order to ensure a place; there will be a practical limit to the number of participants that can be accommodated. For online registration and latest information, please follow the workshop link from the HSC webpage at <http://www.rssd.esa.int/Herschel/>.

There will be no registration fee, the HSC will bear the costs of organising the workshop. Personal costs of participation, including travelling, hotel, meals, etc will have to be borne individually. For US-based prospective participants information regarding potential support will be made available by the NHSC on their website at <http://www.ipac.caltech.edu/Herschel/nhsc.shtml>.

Very welcome!