

Joint Committee on Space Astronomy (JCSA)
Report to the CASCA Board / July 2004

For a detailed report on JCSA's recent activities, see the minutes of the two last meeting on 2003 Dec. 19 and 2004 June 11-12.

1. Membership

Committee Members	1st-last meeting
Jaymie Matthews (UBC)	01/11-04/6
Anthony Moffat (U. de Montréal)	00/11-03/6 + 03/12-04/6
David Naylor (U. of Lethbridge)	03/12-06/6
Barth Netterfield - delegate (U. of Toronto)	02/12-05/6
Carmelle Robert (U. Laval)	01/11-04/6 + 04/6-05/6
Samar Safi-Harb (U. of Manitoba)	04/12-07/6
Douglas Scott - chair (UBC)	02/12-05/6

Ex-officio Members:

Gretchen Harris (President, Canadian Astronomical Society)
Greg Fahlman (Director General of HIA)
David Kendall (Director General, Space Science Program, CSA)
Alain Berinstain (Acting Director, Planetary Exploration
and Space Astronomy, CSA)

Non-voting Member

Kate Wilson (NSERC)

2. Missions/Projects:

Active: MOST (J. Matthews)

FUSE (J. Hutchings)
ODIN (S. Kwok)
SVLBI (R. Taylor)

Future: BLAST (B. Netterfield)

Herschel - HIFI (M. Fish)
- SPIRE (D. Naylor)
Planck - LFI (D. Scott)
- HFI (D. Bond)
JWST (J. Hutchings)
UVIT (J. Hutchings)

CADC (D. Schade)

MOST is now into routine science mode and the CSA is considering a request for continuing support funding. The PI is very happy with the first science results. There will be an official release around July in Nature.

FUSE is in a process of ramping-down. Although only a small group of Canadians are interested in FUSE, they are very well quoted and the CSA is happy to support FUSE.

The CSA stopped supporting SVLBI in February 2004 (with the end of their contract) and ODIN in April 2004 (one year after the original contract). The Canadian representative for ODIN is now in Taiwan for 2 years.

BLAST test flight was last September. The CSA has approved its funding for another year and a science flight is in preparation for December 2004.

Two new members for the SPIRE Science Steering Committee have been selected (the committee is now composed of Halpern, Scott, Wilson, di Francesco, and Martin). Herschel had difficulty with parts procurement for HIFI. The launch date for Herschel (February 2007) will probably slip. The Canadian contribution to Planck, although considered small, seems to be well appreciated by the partners.

An active committee was created to revise the Canadian teams of JWST following a request from CSA and CASCA to see more people involved in the development of this project and to develop a stronger link with the Canadian universities.

The CSA is supporting UVIT. Recently, it was agreed that UVIT will be an instrument on-board ASTROSAT, along with 4 X-Ray instruments and another UV imaging telescope. The CSA and the Indian Space Research Organization are partners for ASTROSAT. Meanwhile, the UVIT team has been revised and contains now 13 members.

New missions have been presented at the last meeting (NuSTAR - V. Kaspi; BRITE - S. Rucinski; DUNE - L. van Waerbeke and H. Koekstra).

The issue of archiving space mission data with the CADC is under consideration at the CSA. The CADC is in the process of archiving FUSE data. Recently, the CADC benefited from unspent funds in the CSA Space Science budget by virtue of a slower spending in some key projects.

3. CSA News:

Marc Garneau, president of the CSA, gave the welcoming word at the

December meeting. In his speech, he noted the success of the missions and he mentioned his intention to work closely with the advisor to the government for science to raise the profile of space science. He wants to challenge the community to more effectively lobby the government. The CSA budget situation is very tight and Dr. Garneau is looking at how he may change this.

David Kendall has moved to the position of Director General of the Space Science Program. Recently, (May 10) an announcement was posted for a Program Scientist in the domain of Space Astronomy at the CSA. It will be an indeterminate position with duties shared between organizing and running the space astronomy program of the CSA and personal research. This person will be very important in the future for establishing an active link between the CSA, the JCSA, and the Canadian astronomers.

4. Support for the Science:

The CSA described the current situation with respect to the Grants and Contributions program in order to help support the science. Several new funding programs are active at the CSA and more will be announced shortly. A suggestion was made that there should be a summer school for space instrumentation. Furthermore, experienced team members should act more as mentors and try to hire post docs and students that eventually will be recruited to faculty positions in space astronomy.

5. HIA Update:

HIA was asked to describe their role in space astronomy. HIA has a lot of expertise available in instrumentation including optical design, mainly useful for phase A. HIA people involved in JWST and UVIT will continue to play their respective roles.

6. NSERC/CSA Update:

Seven awards were provided in astronomy (including Planck, Herschel-SPIRE and Boomerang) from NSERC. A New Special Research Opportunities program has been announced by NSERC.

7. PR, Outreach, and CSA Strategic Plan:

A universal comment for the space mission is a lack of publicity. Louis Michon from the CSA and a new person to be hired at the CSA will help to obtain information from PIs. Louis Grenier from the CSA

distributed a new version of a document on the CSA Space Science and Exploration Strategy which was discussed among the JSCA members.