

D/SRE/DJS/CW/ve/26756

Paris, 30 August 2010

To: Science Community
SPC, SSAC and Science Working Groups

**INTEGRAL Announcement of Opportunity for Obtaining
Data Rights to Targets within Previously Approved AO-8 Observing
Programmes**

Dear Colleague,

I am very pleased to invite you to respond to the 8th “Announcement of Opportunity” by submitting proposals for obtaining data rights to targets within the previously approved AO-8 observing programmes.

The gamma-ray observatory INTEGRAL is the second medium-sized mission of ESA’s Horizon 2000 Science Programme. It was launched on a Proton rocket on 17th October 2002 and offers astronomers a unique opportunity to perform high resolution spectroscopy in the energy range from 20 keV to 8 MeV (Spectrometer SPI) and high angular resolution imaging in the energy range from 15 keV to 10 MeV (Imager IBIS). Concurrent monitoring of high energy sources is performed by the co-aligned monitors in the 3 keV to 35 keV X-ray band (X-ray Monitor JEM-X) and in the optical wavelengths (V, 500 – 600 nm) by the Optical Monitoring Camera OMC.

This Announcement solicits proposals for obtaining data rights to targets within AO-8 observations to be carried out in the period from January 2011 to December 2011. Proposers from all over the world are welcome to participate. All proposals will be subject to an independent peer review by the INTEGRAL Time Allocation Committee (TAC). Potential proposers are expected to prepare and submit proposals in electronic form by the deadline given below using the INTEGRAL Proposal Generation Tool software. The documentation, list of approved observations and proposal submission and support software for this Announcement are being made available via the Internet at:

<http://integral.esac.esa.int/>

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The key milestones for this Announcement are:

Release of Announcement of Opportunity:	30 August 2010
Due date for Proposals:	8 October 2010 (14:00 CET)
Final TAC approved programme:	November 2010
Start of AO-8 Observations:	1 January 2011

I wish you success with your proposals to use the INTEGRAL observatory.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Southwood', with a stylized, cursive script.

Prof. David Southwood
Director of Science and Robotic Exploration

Copy: R. Marsden, J. Clavel, A. Parmar, C. Winkler, P. Kretschmar