

The Eighth Call for Proposals for XMM-Newton closed in October 2008; successful submissions were announced on December 17, 2008. The Budget Process has begun, as the deadline was March 20, and results are expected by June 2009. Accepted proposals may be found online at http://xmm.esac.esa.int/external/xmm_news/otac_results/index.shtml. We anticipate about 30% of category C targets will be scheduled.

The XMM-Newton Science Operations Centre is organizing a workshop for May 18-20, 2009, in Madrid, Spain, entitled "Supersoft X-ray Sources - New Developments". The goal of the workshop will be to review the current status of observational and theoretical research on supersoft X-ray sources and identify the most important unresolved problems. More information regarding the meeting location and accommodations, as well as the submitted abstracts, may be found here: http://xmm.esac.esa.int/external/xmm_science/workshops/2009_science/.

The fourth International Astronomical Consortium for High Energy Calibration (IACHEC) meeting took place in Japan during April 27-29, 2009. The results of investigations into the cross-calibrations of XMM-Newton, Chandra, and Suzaku were discussed; the presentations are available in pdf format at <http://www.iachec.org/meetings/2009/index.html>. The presentations from the XMM-Newton Users Group Meeting, which took place May 6-7, 2009 and focus on instrument calibration and software, are also available at http://xmm.esac.esa.int/external/xmm_user_support/usersgroup/20090506/index.shtml.

The number of publications using XMM-Newton data continues to increase, as does the rate at which they are published. As of the end of March, 2009, over 2300 refereed papers have been published making use of XMM-Newton; 444 of these came over the past year. The publication rate from April 2008 through March 2009 averaged a remarkable 111 papers per quarter -- this compares very well with previous years (2004-2006: 81 papers per quarter; 2006-March 2008: 100 papers per quarter).

XMM-Newton's Educator Ambassadors continue to bring the satellite and its data into the classrooms by presenting workshops using XMM-Newton educational materials. Recent workshops were held at the NSTA National Conference in New Orleans, LA, and at the Independence Public Library in Kansas, as part of the "Visions of the Universe" NASA-sponsored exhibit.

For more information about XMM-Newton, please visit the US Guest Observer Facility pages at <http://xmm.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.