

## **(Draft) Minutes of SWWT meeting # 22**

**Date and time:** 7 November 2007, 18:00-20:00

**Location:** Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels

### **Agenda:**

1. Welcome
2. Space situational awareness
  - Briefing by L del Monte (ESA)
3. Space weather and FP7
  - status of existing proposals
  - plans for future calls
4. AOB

### **1 Welcome and agenda**

Mike Hapgood welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that this was a short meeting - and therefore proposed to focus on two key issues as shown in the agenda above.

### **2 Space situational awareness (SSA)**

The first part of the meeting was a presentation on “A European approach to Space Situational Awareness” by Luca del Monte from the Policy Office under the Director-General of ESA. This presentation was deferred from the earlier dedicated splinter meeting on SSA because the speaker had a morning meeting in London and was unable to be in Brussels until late afternoon.

The presentation first outlined the concept of space situational awareness (“a comprehensive knowledge of the population of space objects, of existing threats/risks, and of the space environment”) and the rationale for a European programme on SSA. The rest of the presentation focused on the ESA initiative to establish such a programme and, in particular, on work to develop an initial programme that can be presented at the next ESA Ministerial Council in late 2008. Space weather is foreseen to be one of three areas within that initial programme. It was stressed that SSA is concerned with the applications side of space weather and, in the initial programme, will focus on better coordination and exploitation of existing assets. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session, after which Mike Hapgood thanked the speaker for coming to give the presentation.

A copy of the presentation is available as Annex 1 to these minutes - see <http://listserv.cclrc.ac.uk/files/SWWT/SSA - Space Weather Week.pdf>.

### **3 Space weather and FP7**

#### **3.1 Status of existing proposals**

Mike Hapgood noted that several space weather proposals had been successful in recent FP7 calls. In particular, he noted the success of the SOTERIA proposal led by Giovanni Lapenta (K.U.Leuven). Mike congratulated Giovanni (who was present at the meeting) and invited him to say a few words. Other successful projects were a proposal on real-time neutron monitoring led by Rami Vainio from University of Helsinki and, ESAIL, a proposal for further development of the electric solar wind sail concept from FMI. It was also noted that several projects had been placed on reserve lists: ESSENCE, a solar physics/space weather coordination action led by Stefaan Poedts (K.U.Leuven); HELIO, a heliophysics data infrastructure proposal led by André Csillaghy (Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz) and Bob Bentley (MSSL); and HIGHTIME, a proposal for improved exploitation of measurements of conditions in the upper atmosphere.

### **3.2 Plans for future calls**

Mike Hapgood noted that the next call for Integrated Infrastructure Initiative (I3) proposals was due soon. He noted that, in previous discussions, it had been assumed that the community should develop a single proposal inclusive of all space weather interests. He now thought that was not a good approach and that a series of more targeted proposals would be better. There were three main problems with an inclusive proposal: (a) it could be difficult to give it the clear focus that is needed for a successful bid; (b) it could be difficult to find someone with the time and ability to coordinate what would be a very large project<sup>1</sup>; and (c) it would be a high risk approach in that failure of this single proposal would adversely affect the whole community. In contrast, the community's recent experience with more targeted proposals is good – as evidenced by the success stories above. This would also reduce the risk to the community posed by failure of any single proposal. In discussion, it was noted that submission of multiple space weather proposals also has the good effect of raising awareness (in Brussels and across Europe) that space weather is an important issue and that it being pursued by a wide and active community in Europe. Mike noted that Anna Belehaki was leading efforts to develop an ionospheric proposal for the next call – building on experience from the DIAS group. The comments from the audience indicated that this was an important area of interest but did not to identify other target areas for space weather proposals. Mike Hapgood commented that this probably reflected an ionospheric bias in the attendance at what was an evening meeting. He proposed to circulate this information to the wider SWWT and to encourage members to identify other target areas. He also proposed that the SWWT could act as broker for people who wished to exchange information about possible proposals.

*AI M22/1 MH to circulate information about next FP7 call.*

## **4 Date of next meeting**

No decision was made at the Brussels meeting. Mike Hapgood will discuss with steering board members and make a proposal by email.

*AI M22/2 MH to decide and announce date and place of next meeting.*

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<sup>1</sup> Mike noted that it was not feasible for him to act as coordinator given his personal circumstances. Experience suggests that his home institute was unlikely to support the effort needed.

## **5 AOB**

None

V1, 14 November 2007

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