

Report on international cooperation with USA, Russia, China, Japan, IACG for 1993 (Paris, 26 October 1993)

Caption: On 26 October 1993, the European Space Agency Science Programme Committee publishes a report on cooperation between the ESA and the corresponding agencies in the USA, Russia, China and Japan. The report focuses on agreements and financial support for participation in projects and other collaborative activities with agencies devoted to space exploration, such as NASA.

Source: European Space Agency Science Programme Committee. Report on International Cooperation with USA, Russia, China, Japan, IACG for 1993, ESA/SPC(93)50. Paris: 23.01.1974, Historical Archives of the European Union 2013, Villa Salviati – via Bolognese 156, I-50139 Firenze – Italy, ESTEC MASTER FILE.

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EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

SCIENCE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

**Report on International Cooperation
with USA, Russia, China, Japan, IACG for 1993**

1. USA

The first bilateral ESA-NASA meeting between the newly appointed Associate Administrator for Space Science, Dr. W. Huntress, and the Director of Science took place on 20 October in Graz, on the occasion of the IAF Congress. All areas of ongoing or of future cooperation were reviewed.

Concerning HST, NASA confirmed the schedule and the plan for the Servicing Mission. They also offered ESA the opportunity to participate in the development of an Advanced Camera for HST to be installed in 1999, by replying to an AO which should be released in March 1994. ESA informed NASA of the SSAC position on the Advanced Camera (a proposal received for M3) and described the potential consequences for XMM and future projects of developing such an instrument for 1999.

Concerning Ulysses, although NASA could not reveal the content of its FY 95 budget proposal to the President (now being analysed by the OMB), Dr. Huntress expressed his optimism that the continuation after 1995 might be financed.

The status of ISO, SOHO, Cluster and Cassini was reviewed. The main issue concerns the STSP tape recorders and the situation of the MAMA detectors on SOHO (see ESA/SPC(93)45).

On INTEGRAL, NASA could not confirm at that time its financial support for the development of the spectrometer, due to the impossibility of revealing the contents of the FY 95 budget submission. On that basis, the preparation of the Science Management Plan and of the MOU will proceed, contingent upon a confirmation of NASA's involvement in February 1994.

NASA expressed a keen interest in participating in ROSETTA at the level of operations and the Surface Science Package (SSP). ESA took note and informed NASA of its intention to hold a Workshop on the SSP in the first quarter of 1994, to which all interested agencies/organisations (including NASA) will be invited.

ESA described the status of FIRST and NASA took note. The various assessment studies for M3 were described. NASA expressed its interest in Intermarsnet and agreed to inform ESA of its activities in the previous study of a Mercury Orbiter.

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Both agencies described their plans for the study of the Moon and lunar bases and reviewed their respective Long Term Plan preparatory exercises.

The next meeting is foreseen in the February 1994 timeframe, once the contents of the FY 95 budget have been revealed.

2. Russia

2.1 Mars 94 mass memory provision

"The flight model of the mass memory unit was delivered and accepted by IKI in September. The flight spare is still under test and some further firmware updates are scheduled for December. This will effectively conclude the initial part of the Mars 94 contract".

(see ESA/SPC(93)44, Section 5, page 10)

2.2 INTEGRAL

Following the selection of INTEGRAL (International Gamma Ray Laboratory) as the second medium-size mission of the Horizon 2000 programme, development proceeds along two parallel lines, envisaging an Ariane launcher and a Russian Proton launcher respectively. According to the latter scenario, scientific data would be provided to Russia in exchange for the provision of a launcher.

Negotiations are under way with Russia to ensure that, if the Proton option is eventually preferred, the agreement can be formalised without delay. The draft Science Management Plan has been discussed with respect to the science ground segment structure and science data share. The text of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Russia is under preparation.

3. China

The main collaborative activity between the Science Programme of ESA and the Peoples Republic of China is the participation of the Center for Space Science and Application Research (CSSAR) of Beijing in the Cluster Science Data System. The collaboration was approved by the SPC at its 60th meeting on 12-13 June 1991, under the condition that "...a scientific collaboration can be established between the Cluster community and the proposing team". Such collaboration materialised in a satisfactory way in the past two years with several different experiments.

The signature of the agreement between ESA's Director of Science, and Prof. Houying Zhang, the Head of the Bureau of Application and Development of the Academia Sinica, the body on which CSSAR depends, is scheduled to take place on 24 November 1993 in Beijing.

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4. Japan

The main collaborative activity with Japan is the planned participation of the Institute for Space and Astronautical Sciences of Japan in the ISO (Infrared Space Observatory) project through a contribution of resources for the provision of a second ground station. The working level negotiations have been concluded and the text of an agreement along the lines of the document presented to SPC on 24-25 February 1993 (ESA/SPC(93)12) is being finalised.

On the occasion of the IACG meeting held in St. Petersburg, the Japanese expressed their interest in participating in the Surface Science Package of ROSETTA and were invited by the Director of Science to participate in the workshop foreseen to be held in the first quarter of 1994 at ESTEC.

5. Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Space Science (IACG)

The 13th IACG Meeting took place in Saint Petersburg on 6-7 October 1993. The objective of the IACG, whose members are the Science Programme of ESA, the Office of Space Science of NASA, the Institute for Space and Astronautical Science of Japan and the Institute of Cosmic Research of Russia, is that of maximising the opportunities for multi-lateral scientific collaboration among approved space science missions in areas of mutual interest.

Accordingly, the main activity is now the planning and implementation of campaigns of coordinated research on selected themes of Solar-Terrestrial science. Four campaigns are presently either under way or being planned.

Starting with the 12th IACG meeting (1992), the scope of IACG has been extended to inter-consultation in the planning phases of activities of common interest. In particular, the initiative of the International Mars Exploration Working Group (IMEWG) has been originated within IACG and extended to other Agencies. A first meeting of the IMEWG took place in Wiesbaden on 10-11 May 1993, during which a charter was established, which is annexed to the present document.

The second meeting of the IMEWG was held in Graz on 18-19 October 1993. In the course of this meeting the situation of the Mars exploration programme was reviewed in the light of the loss of the NASA Mars Observer spacecraft and the programmatic difficulties the Russian Mars 94 and 96 spacecraft are presently facing. These three missions were supposed to conclude the remote sensing phase of the Mars exploratory programme. The scientific interest and widespread support for the constitution of an international network of stations on the surface of Mars were again stated by all the participants. Particular attention was devoted to the identification of complementary network elements which can be provided by the potential participants.

INTERNATIONAL MARS EXPLORATION WORKING GROUP**C H A R T E R**

1. Produce an international strategy for the exploration of Mars beyond the current approved missions
2. Provide a forum for the coordination of future Mars exploration missions
3. Examine the possibilities for an International Mars Network Mission as the next step beyond the 1996 opportunity

MEMBERSHIP AND SCHEDULE

- Agencies to designate 3 members each by June 30, 1993
- Rotation of chairmanship every 2 years
- First meeting scheduled for IAF (Fall '93)
- First recommendation presented to COSPAR in 1994

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