

**EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY**

**ASTRONOMY WORKING GROUP**

**Recommendation on the Integral Field Unit for the NIRSpec instrument**

The Astronomy Working Group (AWG), at its 118<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 13-14 May 2004 at ESA Headquarters, Paris, heard the proposal of the Executive presented by the JWST Project Scientist (Peter Jakobsen) to include an Integral Field Unit (IFU) within the NIRSpec instrument.

The IFU module would considerably increase the scientific capability of the NIRSpec instrument, in particular for the study of the dynamics of high redshift galaxies. In addition the IFU would allow to mitigate the operational risk of the instrument by providing a backup acquisition mode for spectroscopy.

Taking into account the reduced impact on the cost of NIRSpec compared to the considerable benefits of the implementation of the IFU, *the AWG unanimously recommends that this module be included in the instrument.*