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EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

ASTRONOMY WORKING GROUP

Recommendation on the extension of the XMM-Newton mission

At its 123rd meeting held on 22-23 September 2005 at ESA Headquarters, Paris, the Astronomy Working Group (AWG) was briefed on the status of ESA's XMM-Newton mission, and asked to recommend extension of the XMM-Newton operations until 31 March 2010, i.e. for a further 2 years beyond the current approved period.

The AWG is impressed by the excellent science return from this ESA cornerstone mission. XMM-Newton's growing publication rate has now exceeded Chandra's. The AWG expects the mission will maintain its world class scientific profile over the period under consideration.

Thus, **the AWG strongly recommends the proposed extension.**