

Dear Colleague,

Following ESA's selection of Athena as the L2 mission to implement the *Hot and Energetic* science theme, an *Athena* Science Study Team (ASST) was appointed with the task of providing scientific guidance to ESA through the coming phases of the mission. The detailed remit of the ASST and its current membership, as well as some additional information about Athena can be found under the *Athena* web page at ESA <http://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/athena>.

The ASST's remit involves multiple tasks, which include acting as a focus for the involvement of the broad scientific community. With the agreement of ESA, the ASST therefore plans to establish a Working Group structure to be populated by members of the community. These Working Groups are intended to bring the expertise and effort of that community to bear in support of Athena. The Working Group structure aims to provide continuity with that developed for the submission of the *Hot and Energetic Universe* White Paper, Supporting Papers and successful *Athena* mission proposal (as described under <http://www.the-athena-x-ray-observatory.eu/>), but at the same time offers the opportunity for new contributions from individuals who might be willing to join the Athena project in its present phase.

The top-level Working Groups along with their subgroup structures and their Chairs and co-Chairs are listed below. The Terms of Reference are posted on the ESA cosmos web page at <http://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/athena/community-wg>

SWG1 Hot Universe (Chair: A.C. Fabian, co-Chair: T. Reiprich)

- SWG 1.1 The evolution of galaxy groups and clusters
- SWG 1.2 The astrophysics of galaxy groups and clusters
- SWG 1.3 AGN feedback in galaxy clusters and groups
- SWG 1.4 The missing baryons and the warm-hot intergalactic medium

SWG2 Energetic Universe (Chair: X. Barcons, co-Chair: M. Cappi)

- SWG 2.1 Formation and growth of the earliest SMBH
- SWG 2.2 Understanding the build-up of SMBH and galaxies
- SWG 2.3 Astrophysics of feedback in local AGN
- SWG 2.4 The close environments of supermassive black holes
- SWG 2.5 Luminous Extragalactic Transients

SWG3: Observatory and Multi-wavelength Science (Chair: A. Decourchelle, co-Chairs: H. Matsumoto, R. Smith)

- SWG 3.1 Solar system and exoplanets
- SWG 3.2 Star formation and evolution
- SWG 3.3 End points of stellar evolution
- SWG 3.4 The astrophysics of supernova remnants and the interstellar medium
- SWG 3.5 Multi-wavelength working group

TWG4: Telescope Working Group: (Chair: R. Willingale, co-Chair: G. Pareschi)

MWG5: Mission Working Group (Chair: J.W. den Herder, co-Chair: L. Piro)

MWG 5.1 Science Ground Segment
MWG 5.2 Background
MWG 5.3 Calibration
MWG 5.4 End-to-end simulations
MWG 5.5 Advanced Analysis tools
MEG5 5.6 GRB external triggers and TOOs

The ASST cordially invites members of the community to apply to become members of these newly formed working groups and sub-working groups.

To apply, please fill in and submit the following form:

<http://fs6.formsite.com/ATHENA2028/form4/index.html>

The deadline for applications is ***Monday 1 December 2014***.

Members of the previous Athena working group structures are strongly encouraged to continue their involvement but should also submit this form if they wish to continue to be involved.

Special instructions for NAXA and JAXA scientists:

- If you are at a US institution, you should apply in response to the NASA-issued call that can be found at <http://pcos.gsfc.nasa.gov/studies/athena/>
- If you are at a Japanese institution, please see the information on the following page: <http://heapa.astro.isas.jaxa.jp/>

The ASST expects to appoint applicants to the Working Groups and sub-working groups at its meeting on 11 December 2014. These members will be listed both under the *Athena* community web site (<http://www.the-athena-x-ray-observatory.eu/>) and under the ESA *Athena* portal (<http://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/athena>)

Thank you for your support.

The Athena Science Study Team