

Minutes for GLAST User's Committee (GUC) Telecon July 20, 2006

Committee members: Josh Grindlay (chair), Roger Brissenden, Jim Buckley, Jim Ling, Don Kniffen, Alan Marscher, Greg Stacy, Mark Strickman, Ann Wehrle

Ex Officio committee members: David Band, Rick Harnden, Peter Michelson, Steve Ritz, Chris Shrader

Colleagues: Lynn Cominsky

11:00 Meeting called to order

Preliminary comments—Josh. GUC telecons and meetings should be held every ~2 months. The GUC website is currently inaccessible from outside GSFC's Bldg. 2.

News from NASA HQ—Rick. A team from NASA HQ (including Rick Howard) visited NRL to see the LAT before it enters the 41 day thermal-vac test. The tests are going well; the LAT looks impressive. GLAST continues to enjoy strong support from NASA HQ. Josh commented that although the recently passed Senate bill for an extra \$1b for NASA is encouraging (yet the House must weigh in...), the prospects for restoring space science funding may be unknown until the fall.

Mission status and recent activities—Steve. Steve is at Spectrum Astro for the Integration Readiness Review. The GBM pre-ship review was held this week; the GBM will be shipped out of Huntsville on 7/24. Roger asked if there were any 'liens' resulting from the review; Steve replied that no major issues were brought up that will require a delta-review. The LAT pre-ship review will be in September. The testing is delayed because of a leak in the NRL vacuum chamber; the test should begin this weekend. The result is a total delay for the LAT of 7-10 days, or perhaps less since other LAT testing went on in parallel while waiting for the chamber.

In September the GLAST schedule will be re-baselined at NASA HQ; the issues that affect the schedule will be resolved in the next two months. The launch will still most likely be in fall 2007.

Steve will start a moderated mission news list that will be emailed out to subscribers (listserv?) approximately once a month.

The HEAD meeting will have a special GLAST session, probably during the day, along with a large number of posters from across the mission.

The AAS has turned down our proposal for a special GLAST session at the next January meeting; we are protesting, but thus far there has been no response.

The list of ~20 sources that will be monitored by the LAT for the scientific community should be better publicized. Thus far there have been few comments from the community, and Steve asked for more input (see discussion below).

The GSFC television team will interview scientists at the GLAST Symposium. The team is accumulating GLAST-related footage.

The GBM DPU reset that occurred during thermal-vac tests was traced to a 'lower power mode.' As a result, the DPU will not be run in this mode.

The LAT, GBM and the mission will each write papers for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. The LAT team hopes to submit their paper by October; ideally all 3 papers will be submitted together.

The formal reviews of the two instruments' compliance with the science requirements (and the Science Requirements Document, SRD) may not be sufficiently comprehensive; consequently, Steve will run an informal but more detailed review of all SRD requirements at the end of November or early December.

LAT news—Peter. The delay in testing the LAT results from a leak in the thermal-vac chamber at NRL. DC2 was very successful, largely as a result of Julie McEnery's leadership and very hard work across the collaboration. The flight spares are being prepared for a beam-test at CERN; the test will take place August into September. The instrument team is putting together an instrument paper, which should be ready for submission by October 1.

GSSC news and planning for the GUC beta test—Chris. The GSSC will present posters about the GSSC and the GI program at the HEAD meeting in October. Code Release 5 will occur soon in preparation for Ground Readiness Test #5 (GRT 5—now scheduled for 8/24-25/06). David prepared a memo outlining the GSSC's plans for the GI program. In particular the GSSC is working to allow GIs to use only one proposal submission system. The GSSC is working on a number of software issues in preparation for the GUC beta test. A draft of the documentation on the software system has been prepared; it is still skeletal in places. This documentation will be provided to the GUC a few weeks before the beta test now scheduled for November.

The latency of the LAT's release of information about flares will decrease during the first year, as outlined in the LAT First-year Data Release Plan.

DC2 outcome/wrapup summary—Steve (Julie was unable to join the telecom). DC2 lasted from March to May, 2006. The first two days of the DC2 closeout consisted of presentations of scientists' results, the sky model was revealed at the end of the second day, and on the third day the science behind the sky model was presented. Various problems were resolved (e.g., differences in the GBM and LAT times, pulsar timing). Source catalogs were created; ASI created a website linking their LAT catalog to other catalogs. On the whole, the DC2 was very successful and accomplished its original goals.

The GUC requested a written summary. Steve requested that specific questions be sent to Julie now to ensure the writeup addresses the points that the GUC wants covered.

There will not be a DC3 similar to the other data challenges, but instead a series of ‘service challenges’ and systematic science studies. Many simulations are planned.

EA training and BH planetarium show opening at Chabot—Lynn. Last week 18 educators attended a workshop devoted to pedagogical issues. The BH planetarium show just opened in Chabot (Oakland). The show is installed at the National Air and Space Museum and is under review for possible showing at NASM. Lynn is trying to find out the status and if it can/will be shown, she wants to organize a Washington event, possibly in September. The show is also now running in Baton Rouge.

GLAST Symposium planning update—Steve, Peter. As the GUC requested, there will be both published and web-based meeting proceedings. The AIP Proceedings can be linked into the ADS. We have a contract for the proceedings. The Symposium website is under development, and a draft First Bulletin exists. It will be sent out next week. The parallel sessions have been moved to Wednesday.

The local organizing effort is proceeding. Rooms have been reserved at four hotels with different prices. The first announcement (to be released next week) is currently under review and will provide information only, while in early September the online registration will open up.

Review of open Action Items—Josh, et al.

AI#29—Julie presented the list of sources at an AGN meeting in Poland; a few small changes were suggested. The list is being presented at different meetings, but needs to be better publicized. For example, the list should be discussed at the HEAD meeting, but what other topical meetings and/or other groups should be targeted? Jim B. is soliciting comments, primarily from the TeV observers, on a long list of additional sources. The LAT plan is to start with ~20 sources plus additional sources as they flare.

AI#31—The 1st year data release policy and the list of 20 monitored sources should be posted on the GSSC website. Closed.

AI#32—Prepare the PDMP for circulation to GLAST mission stakeholders. Closed.

12:00 Next telecon: Thursday, September 28, at 11:15 AM EDT.

12:06 Adjourn

Agenda for GUC Telecon, Thurs. July 20, 11am EDT

10:55 please call in to be on line by 11:00am EDT for a prompt start

11:01 Introductions (quick round of who is on call; later arrivals announced as they join)

11:03 Brief comments on telecon goals -- Josh

11:05 News from HQ -- Rick

11:10 Mission status, recent activities, GLAST news list - Steve

11:15 LAT news - Peter

11:20 GBM news - Chip

11:25 GSSC news and planning for the beta test - Chris

11:30 DC2 outcome/wrapup summary -- Julie

11:35 EA training and BH planetarium show opening at Chabot -- Lynn

11:40 GLAST Symposium planning update -- Steve, Peter

11:45 Review of open Action Items -- Josh, David, Jim B., others...

11:55 New business and Agenda items for next Telecon and F2F -- all

12:00 Date for next telecon (e.g. Th. Sept. 28?)

12:01 Adjourn