

GLAST User's Group (GUG) Telecon

December 7, 2007

Present:

User's Group Members: Josh Grindlay (Chair), Matthew Baring, Wim Hermsen, Buell Jannuzi, Henric Krawczynski, Reshmi Mukherjee, Luigi Piro, Scott Ransom, and Ann Wehrle

Ex Officio Members: David Band, Rick Harnden, Julie McEnergy, Chip Meegan, Peter Michelson, Steve Ritz, Chris Shrader, and Dave Thompson

Colleagues: Sandy Barnes

Meeting Called to Order 11:30

Introductions and general comment (Josh)--- After a roll call of who was on the telecon, the Agenda was modified to begin with the LAT report and pickup with Rick and Steve's reports when they join later.

LAT (Peter)—The LAT is back at NRL for observatory thermal-vac test. An initial performance test shows that the LAT survived shipping. Thermal-vac should begin in early January. The launch has not been officially baselined as May 29, but this is the date we are working towards. Persis Drell, who helped start the LAT, has been named SLAC Director.

Julie McEnergy—Jon Morse and other HQ personnel visited GLAST at NRL yesterday. Flight software parameters are being fine-tuned.

GBM (Chip)—The GBM was powered up after the trip to NRL. There will be a minor flight software update before the thermal-vac test. A Comprehensive Performance Test (CPT) will be conducted inside the thermal-vac chamber. The ground software is progressing.

GSSC (Chris)—The GI proposal peer review will be held in 10 days; see details below. The GSSC proposes that the second beta test be held late Feb-early March (Launch-3 months). This test will be performed by the GUG and additional participants in their home institutions. Progress towards integration of the SAE into the FTOOLS environment is 50% complete and will be done by the beta test. The Flight Operations Review (FOR) is upcoming. The timeline and TOO planning capabilities are nearly complete, and will be presented to the GUG in the future.

GI Program (David)—The preparations for the review are going very well. We have 32 reviewers for 4 panels; the chairs and deputies have been chosen. The proposals were

distributed to the reviewers a little more than 4 weeks before the review. Primary and secondary reviewer assignments were made based on reviewers' skills and known conflicts; subsequently reviewers have reported additional conflicts which have been resolved by swapping assignments. The high quality NRAO and NOAO technical reviews have been distributed to the reviewers. After the review we should poll the NRAO and NOAO reviewers as to the quality of the technical information the proposals provided, and should consider modifications to the target forms that will guide proposers. Buell agreed that some optical proposals did not provide sufficient information. A TOO proposal submitted to NOAO as part of the 'Joint Cooperative Opportunity' (a proposal is submitted to NOAO for TOO time and to GLAST for funding) had a very skimpy science justification with the NOAO proposal, and received a poor grade by the NOAO TAC. The Cycle 1 review is designed with plenty of time and staffing margin. Rick said that the panels will be instructed to disregard the launch date slipping past proposed observations. Accepted proposals will be considered on a case-by-case basis so as not to waste time. NRAO which needs to know the launch date for scheduling radio observations.

NASA HQ (Rick)—Re-baselining the budget and schedule is proceeding but is not complete. The Kennedy launch schedule is very full, and therefore the launch date is not definitive. However, May 29 is the unofficial launch date towards which we are working. The change in dates is affecting the budget, but not drastically. A meeting has just been held to consider the options for descoping the GLAST EPO program. Although there will be some cuts, the Sonoma group will remain viable and the teacher training planned for this summer will proceed. Note that HQ is reviewing EPO in NASA as a whole.

Mission (Steve)—(In response to a question) All aspects of the GLAST program have been examined by HQ for cost savings, not just EPO. For example, HQ reviewed every pre-launch test for options to save money and schedule. The launch contractor at Kennedy is trying to increase the time between launches, and there are many launches that must occur (~2 per month not including Shuttle!). HQ did not want an official rebaseline of the budget and schedule until the observatory arrived at NRL. The thermal-vac chamber door is scheduled to close ~Jan. 4. An official date will probably not be set for a few weeks, but we are confident enough of the May 29 date that we should notify other missions and telescopes. Ann said that we should notify the missions that have reviews between now and March (Swift, Suzaku, Chandra, XMM, Integral). May 29 can be posted on our websites. [NOTE: subsequent to the GUG phone call, and as a result of meetings to deconflict the launch schedule, the GLAST launch readiness date has been moved to 16 May.]

Brackets are being mounted on the spacecraft for the tuned mass dampers to reduce the launch loads that might damage the reaction wheels (GLAST is 4 for 3 redundant). Plans are being made to enable operations without the reaction wheels, though in fact wheel failures due to such damage have never occurred on other missions within the first 4-5y of equivalent GLAST operations.

Today is the due date for the Fellows program. The FAQ page has been updated as needed. We anticipate receiving between 30 and 50 applications; Sandy has started 47 files (not all of them will be completed) with partial application materials (e.g. letters of recommendation).

The end-to-end tests are showing some potential constraints on pointing due to spacecraft FSW, and these issues are being worked as they arise. Nothing major has been found, but there will be a report at the next face-to-face.

The suggestions for GLAST's name will be solicited through a website. HQ will choose the name; names in addition to those of deceased scientists will be considered. The name will be announced after L&EO.

Dave Thompson has been added as a Deputy Project Scientist.

Next Face-to-Face (Josh)—The GUG should consider delaying the next meeting because of the delay of the beta test and the launch. Many suggested that the GUG receive the beta test documentation about two weeks before the face-to-face meeting, and the beta test will start two weeks later. There were suggestions that the face-to-face meeting should be two days, one for GUG business and one for a hands-on science tools workshop. Steve suggested that we meet in February, perhaps only a few weeks later than the current Feb. 1 date; at that meeting we should have a presentation of the beta test plans. A few days before the face-to-face meeting the GSSC will provide the documentation for the beta test; one of the agenda items will be a review of this documentation. The consensus is that the GUG will change the date of the face-to-face meeting to mid-to-late February if we can agree on another date. Sandy was asked to poll GUG members for possible dates in the 2nd or 3rd week of February. **[Subsequent to the telecon, the best date for the next F2F was determined to be Monday, 3 March, which has been selected as the date for the next meeting.]**

Adjourn—12:44

.....
Agenda for GUG telecon Fri. Dec. 7, 2007, at 1130am

1130 -- Introductions (pls. call in by 1125am)

1132 -- Goals for telecon (Josh)

1133 -- News from HQ (Rick)

1137 -- News from the Mission, overall (Steve; and Kevin?)

1150 -- Updates/news from LAT (Peter)

1155 -- Updates/news from GBM (Chip)

1200 -- Updates/news from GSSC (Chris)

1205 -- Status of GI Program (David, Chris)

1215 -- Schedule for upcoming Beta test (Chris, David)

1220 -- Community reporting of planned multiwavelength observations (Julie?)

1225 -- Other business (all)

1230 -- Adjourn