

October 11, 2006

Dear Colleague,

NASA is pleased to call to the attention of members of the U.S. scientific community the release by the European Space Agency (ESA) of the “INTEGRAL Announcement of Opportunity for Key Program” (AO-5), soliciting Guest Observation proposals for ESA’s INTERnational Gamma-Ray Astrophysics Laboratory (INTEGRAL). The Announcement solicits proposals for key programs to be performed during the 12-month period from August 16, 2007 to August 16, 2008. Due to the nature of the NASA-ESA bilateral agreement, this solicitation applies only to scientists affiliated with U.S. institutions; others are urged to contact ESA directly. U.S. scientists may propose either as Principal Investigators or as Co-Investigators on foreign P.I. proposals. The AO may be accessed directly from ESA, accessible via the following address:

http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/integral/inthp_prop_tools.html

NASA has instituted an INTEGRAL Guest Observer Facility (GOF) at the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) as a support center for INTEGRAL activities in the U.S. Information of interest to U.S. observers, as well as general project information, can be found at the following address:

<http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/integral/integralgof.html>

A detailed description of the mission, including instrument capabilities, and additional information pertaining to the proposal preparation and submission procedures, is also available via links to the INTEGRAL home page at that address. (Questions concerning U.S. participation in the INTEGRAL AO-5 program should be addressed to the Technical Information Contact listed below.) ESA will be responsible for conducting a peer review of all submitted proposals, including those from U.S. investigators, and determining the associated time allocation. The dead line for submission of key program proposals is November 17, 2006 at 9 a.m. (EST). Current plans call for ESA to notify proposers and NASA of the results of the peer review during December 2006.

NASA intends to make funding available for a Guest Observer (GO) program to support the analysis, interpretation, and publication of data obtained by U.S. proposers who are granted observing time on INTEGRAL through the ESA AO. The level of funding available for any approved program will depend on the total funding available, the size and complexity of the investigation, and on the ultimate number of U.S. investigations approved by ESA. Details regarding the timing and mechanism of NASA’s solicitation for

data analysis funding requests will be announced at a later date; please do not submit a budget with your observing proposal.

For additional technical or programmatic information regarding U.S. participation in the INTEGRAL mission, please contact:

Technical Information: Dr. Volker Beckmann
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Code 661
Greenbelt, MD 20771
Tel: (301) 286-8401
Fax: (301) 286-1684
beckmann@milkyway.gsfc.nasa.gov

Programmatic Information:
Dr. F. Rick Harnden
NASA INTEGRAL Program Scientist
Astrophysics Division
Science Mission Directorate, NASA Headquarters
(202) 358-3809
fharden@nasa.gov

With Regards,

F. Rick Harnden