

GLAST USERS' COMMITTEE (GUC)

Telecon Minutes

September 28, 2006

Present:

Committee members: Josh Grindlay (chair), Roger Brissenden, Jim Buckley, Wim Hermsen, Don Kniffen, Jim Ling, Alan Marscher, Reshmi Mukherjee, Rene Ong, Luigi Piro, Greg Stacy, and Mark Strickman

Ex Officio committee members: David Band, Lynn Cominsky, Neil Gehrels, Rick Harnden, Julie McEnery, Chip Meegan, Peter Michelson, Steve Ritz, Rita Sambruna, and Chris Shrader

The meeting began at 11:15 AM EDT

Introduction—Josh

Besides the usual reports, this telecon will focus on the beta test (Nov. 16, 17) and the multiwavelength task force (which met by telecon yesterday).

News from HQ—Rick

Luigi Piro was welcomed to the GUC. This past Monday, project officials discussed at NASA HQ the re-baselining of the mission; a followup meeting will be held next month with SMD. The ROSES announcement of the GLAST GI program for Cycle 1 is under preparation. Josh noted this will be a significant item for GUC discussion at the upcoming November F2F meeting.

Mission news—Steve

Kevin and Al send their apologies that they can't attend the telecon. Both the spacecraft and LAT monthly reviews are currently underway, as is an engineering review regarding the Delta IIIH's issues (e.g., gimbal issue discussed previously). Both the LAT and the GBM are at Spectrum Astro. Most of the spacecraft's components have been delivered. The solar panels are coming together. The release mechanism issue has been resolved. The nagging issue is the data system; there have been delays, but development seems to be on track. To mitigate slips, the engineering unit is being used for the integration.

The contingency has been used up. However, now that the LAT has been delivered, the schedule should be more predictable. The actual launch date will depend on the schedule of other Delta launches. The new launch will be in the October to November (2007) time frame.

Steve briefed the astrophysics sub-committee of the NAC about GLAST at their September meeting.

Reviews thus far have not addressed in depth the analysis of the instruments' performance relative to the Science Requirements. Therefore, Steve has asked the SWG will hold such a review. Current thinking is the December timeframe.

At the HEAD meeting there will be a GLAST session, and scientists will help staff the GLAST booth. New fact sheets about GLAST and the GI program will be handed out at the booth. GUC members are encouraged to congregate at the booth.

At the January AAS one of the two HEAD special sessions will be devoted to GLAST. There will probably be a longer initial talk, shorter talks about the instruments, and a panel discussion.

The GLAST Symposium Proceedings will be published in AIP's large format. The papers will be linked to ADS (linking from the symposium website is not permitted). The first announcement for the symposium is about to go out; various e-mail lists will be used. A GLAST-NEWS major duomo with monthly newsletters is starting. The abstract deadline for the Symposium is December 15.

LAT news—Peter

The LAT is at Spectrum Astro. All is going well. The testing at NRL was exactly four months, as planned (the testing team was able to make up the delays resulting from problems with the testing equipment).

The beam tests at CERN are done, and the analysis is underway. Further tests will occur at GSI.

GBM news—Chip

The GBM is at Spectrum Astro. Integration of the detectors onto the spacecraft is underway. Spectrum Astro is working on noise in the electrical connections. The BGO detectors will be mounted after the LAT is installed.

E/PO news—Lynn

The black hole planetarium show is being shown in different venues. The National Air and Space Museum may show it next summer (they chose a different show for the current season). The PBS show "Monster in the Milkyway" will be shown on Halloween; although we are a sponsor, we can't see the script. The website for the PBS show is already up: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/blackhole/>.

Approval for the press release for the LAT delivery to Spectrum Astro was protracted; the process needs to be faster.

GSSC news—Chris

A memo about the science tools beta test was circulated to the GUC with a schedule of the preparations for the test; a detailed schedule of the beta test itself is under development. The beta test will be Thursday and the first half of Friday (Nov. 16 and 17), and the GUC meeting will be Friday afternoon and Saturday (Nov. 17 and 18). GUC members will download the software and data ~2 weeks before the beta test to their laptops. Windows XP, Linux (Red Hat Enterprise Linux 3, Fedora Core 1, Scientific Linux 3, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 3, Scientific Linux and Max OS/X (Tiger) will be supported. Additional testers are being invited to participate. Reshmi and Greg will help with the preparations. The DC2 data will be used. The documentation includes analysis threads; a very basic thread will be provided.

Planning for GI Cycle 1 Peer Review—Don

Don would like a sense of how the peer review will be run. Rick and Chris stated that the GSSC will run the review for HQ; NRES will support the review.

The GI program peer review process will be discussed at the November meeting; Don will discuss with David and Chris the issues that should be addressed at this meeting.

Multi-wavelength Task Force: update—Rene

Many members of the GUC and LAT multi-wavelength teams had a telecon. Plans are underway to propose observations. GLAST's support of multiwavelength observations was discussed; Rene will write a statement to TACs about the need for such observations; submission of this GLAST Multi-Wavelength Statement to various major observatories (e.g., NOAO) will be by Steve, who will also explore the setting up of Joint Proposal options in time for inclusion in the Cycle 1 GI program. Additional contacts with some organizations (e.g., NRAO, NOAO, STScI, Chandra, Spitzer) have to be reinforced to raise awareness and to negotiate joint proposal programs. Funding issues were discussed. The list of 20 sources that the LAT team will monitor was discussed; the user community should understand that this list will probably grow. The GUC should consider modifying the list based on the planned multiwavelength campaigns. The process by which the list of 20 sources will evolve will be discussed at the November GUC meeting. The GUC should provide input on the facilities GLAST should work with. Alan suggested that individuals (e.g., GUC members) send the LAT team lists of specific targets they (individuals) are proposing for monitoring observations (e.g., VLBA programs).

Agenda items for Nov. 17-18 F2F mtg.—Josh

The next GUC meeting will be Nov. 16-18. The beta test will be Thursday through Friday lunch. The GUC business will be Friday afternoon through Saturday afternoon. Members should propose agenda items.

12:25 Adjourn