

# GLAST User's Group (GUG)

Telecon

April 20, 2007

Present:

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

Ex Officio Members: David Band, Lynn Cominsky, Rick Harnden, Neil Gehrels, Julie McEnery, Chip Meegan, Peter Michelson, Steve Ritz

Colleagues: Sandy Barnes

## Meeting called to order at 11:31

**Telecon goals** (Josh)—The many items for discussion on this telecon make clear the need for GUG telecon meetings between F2F meetings (general comment mainly for the benefit of new GUG members...).

**News from HQ** (Rick)—The new Associate Administrator of SMD, Alan Stern, has joined HQ. Jon Morse has joined as director of the Astrophysics Division. Stern has not yet been briefed about GLAST, but Morse has been.

**Launch delay: update on reasons and mission overview** (Steve, Rick)—Observatory integration is nearly complete; a few components were removed for reworking. The LAT radiators have been installed. The Pre-Environmental Review was held last week and was successful. The EMI testing is the first environmental test that will be held. The launch has been delayed to December 14, 2007. Instrument testing and spacecraft integration (harnesses) were interfering with each other, consequently Kevin decided that they would occur in series, not in parallel. In addition, a cable external to the spacecraft was damaged. These events, along with other issues, eroded most of the schedule contingency. NASA HQ and the GLAST project concurred that, to maintain schedule contingency, the launch date will be delayed to December. Making this decision now avoids a charge for delays in assembling the launcher. A DOD mission that has priority for the launch pad is slipping a bit, which could delay GLAST's launch into February. However, the DOD mission slip could be long enough that GLAST will be launched before the DOD mission. **Note added after the telecon:** the DOD mission has now slipped into April, clearing the way for a December GLAST launch.

A muon end-to-end timing test was held that identified a spacecraft flight software problem that is being corrected

**LAT news** (Peter)—The causes of the LAT reboots have been identified and fixed. There has not been a reboot since the flight software was changed.

LAT operations preparation is continuing with service challenges. Work is proceeding with the onboard GRB trigger; the plan is to have it installed prior to observatory thermal-vac testing.

**GBM news** (Chip)—All is going well. Small problems with the spacecraft interfaces have been fixed. The German collaborators can get into the GD facility for environmental testing. Responding to a question from Josh, it was stated there is currently no planned interaction between the GBM and LAT onboard burst triggers.

**GSSC and GI Program news** (David)—David reviewed the current status of the GI program. ROSES is out, and the GLAST section was amended to reflect a later proposal deadline consistent with the launch slip. The due date for proposals is now 7 September, with optional NOIs due on 13 July. The proposal materials (tools, documentation, proposal form) are nearly ready to be released.

**EPO news** (Lynn)—Launch preparations continue. The GLAST paper model is ready for beta-testing (see <http://glast.sonoma.edu/teachers/papermodel/gmodel0307.pdf>; the model pages have to be printed on card stock). The GBM may not be quite right; Chip agreed to examine it and provide comments.

Various press documents have been prepared.

A press release about GLAST's pre-environmental review was picked up by the media.

Josh suggested that news items should be written for the AAS and HEAD newsletters to raise awareness of GLAST and the GI program. The periodic newsletter will also be circulated soon through the `glast_news` majordomo.

Video materials are being prepared for the launch.

A camera (to record stage separations) will not be installed on the launcher—the cost to the GLAST project was high.

**Discussion of NRAO MOU** (Steve)—The MOU was changed to allocate up to 10% of the NRAO time to the GLAST-NRAO joint program, but more can still be requested if the demand is high enough. Scott questioned the statement that scientists may not submit a proposal to the GLAST-NRAO joint program if the proposal has also been submitted directly to NRAO; this could be a problem for NRAO proposals submitted and approved this summer before the GLAST deadline. The intention was to preclude two redundant attempts to get telescope time. Steve suggested a text revision that will be discussed with Jim next week. Steve would like to sign the MOU as soon as possible; therefore the GUG endorsed the MOU at this telecon. The joint program will be announced in a joint NRAO-GLAST press release.

**Status of NOAO MOU** (Buell, Steve)—A draft is being prepared; the GLAST-NRAO MOU is the template. The goal is to submit the NOAO MOU to the NOAO users' group in the next few months; and to finish the MOU by the September GLAST GI program deadline. The allocation being considered is 5% of NOAO time, but not on the Gemini telescopes. To support the MOU some use cases need to be developed. A strong case needs to be made for the program with GLAST. GUG members are invited/requested to send Buell and Steve brief examples of science drivers for joint NOAO-GLAST programs which will be discussed at the June F2F meeting. The other NOAO joint programs (e.g., with Chandra) are 'limited' by the NASA missions' large oversubscription rates.

**Discussion of SPD** (Steve, Roger)—David gave Steve comments on the current draft. We are officially the GUG. HQ has determined that there will not be a competition to rename GLAST after launch; a committee will choose the name, taking into consideration the international and multi-agency partnerships. New SPD sections since the last presentation to the GUG discuss the users' group (§2.3), and peer review (§6.7).

Josh asked whether §2.6 should say that the SWG will be folded into the GUG about a year after launch. Steve will add such a statement.

Josh asked whether after §4.1 a section on the policy for pointed observations should be added; there was general agreement that this should be added. This can be adapted from the memo on pointing vs. scanning written by Julie and Jim B.

The current SPD draft says that multi-year proposals must be re-proposed, but the NRA says that only a progress report needs to be submitted. David pointed out the difficulties in changing the conditions for large proposals once they have been awarded. Josh strongly advocates having programs requiring multi-year observations (or large data sets) submit renewal proposals each year to the peer review panels for assessment of both progress and the continued compelling nature of the science. The NRA also does not indicate that a large proposal should provide a service to the GLAST community. Rick will evaluate whether a ROSES amendment is necessary, or whether these conditions need only be announced on the GSSC website. Buell said that NOAO allows multi-year proposals for observing programs that clearly require more than one year and for which interim results (i.e., after one year) would not be indicative of the program's success. Originally the GUG thought that multi-year programs were prohibited, but the GUG has been informed that multi-year programs are permitted but rare, though should be subject to annual review. The consensus at the meeting was that the NRA and SPD can be kept as is for large proposals. **Subsequent development:** Rick discovered that the summary table of the GLAST GI program in ROSES does not state that large proposals can be multi-year. A ROSES "clarification" has been released to address this ambiguity.

Steve will circulate another draft of the SPD, and then post it.

**Discussion of 1st year source list** (Julie, Steve)—The GUG agreed to add five additional sources that were requested by many of the groups that were solicited for suggestions. Josh note that the link to the source list is hard to find, and therefore Julie and David will work on making this list (and other webpages) easier to find. The document on the updates to the source list will be archived internally. The sources that will be added are: BL Lac, OJ 287, 0235+163, 0716+714, and 1510-08.

**Update on GI Workshops** (Steve, Josh, Roger)—Planning is underway to fix a date for the GI Workshop to be held in Cambridge, probably on June 18.

**Next meeting**—June 4 and 5, face-to-face, at GSFC

**Adjourned 1:07** (The remaining items on the agenda will be considered at the next meeting).

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Agenda for GLAST User's Group (GUG)  
Telecon  
April 20, 2007

1130 Introductions (please announce yourself as you are connected if you join telecon after ~1132.

1135 Telecon goals (brief comments) - Josh

1137 News from HQ - Rick

1140 Launch delay: update on reasons and mission overview - Steve, Rick

1150 LAT news - Peter

1155 GBM news - Chip

1200 GSSC and GI Program news - David

1205 EPO news - Lynn

1210 Discussion of NRAO MOU - Steve, Jim

1220 Status of NOAO MOU - Buell, Steve

1225 Discussion of SPD - Steve, Roger

1232 Discussion of 1st year source list - Julie, Steve

1240 Update on GI workshops - Julie, Steve

1245 Symposium proceedings - Steve, Peter, Chip

1250 Open AIs with expected closure by ~now - brief discussions:

7 (SPD) -- progress report? - Steve, Roger DONE (above)

20 (ops. params; SOOG) -- prog. report? - Steve

34 (scanning/ptg White Paper) -- Julie

36 (RPS forms) -- David

1258 New business? Issues for June 4/5 F2F? - all

100 Adjourn