Terms of Reference
NASA Athena Study Team

Tasks of the NASA Athena ST

The NASA Athena Study Team (NASA AST) is established as a task group supported by NASA. The specific tasks of the NASA AST are:

1. Assist NASA in developing and articulating a compelling science case supporting the NASA participation in the ESA-led Athena mission for the 2020 Decadal Survey.
2. Provide the U.S. community with information on U.S. participation in Athena including activities involving the U.S. role in Athena science and technology, and provide NASA with U.S. community input regarding the U.S. role on Athena;
3. Provide communication between the U.S. science community and the ESA Athena Study Science Team (ASST) and the X-IFU and WFI Consortia;
4. Provide communication to NASA about Athena science and mission study activities through their role as NASA’s representatives on the Athena Science Working Groups; and
5. Support NASA’s Athena Study Office by providing analysis on scientific and technical issues, as requested.

Organization and Functions

i) The NASA AST will be responsive to the requests of the Director, Astrophysics Division, via the Athena Program Scientist, and the Athena Study Office via the Athena Study Scientist.

ii) The NASA AST will hold 4 (TBR) meetings per year. The initial meeting of the NASA AST will occur on a schedule determined by the Chair(s) in consultation with NASA Headquarters (HQ) and the Study Office. The NASA AST can also have teleconferences on a regular or ad-hoc basis, as needed. Meetings will be called by the NASA AST Chair(s), and the agendas will be set by the Chair(s) in consultation with HQ and the Study Office to ensure that planned activities are aligned with programmatic needs and expectations.

iii) At the discretion of the Chair(s), the NASA AST may organize itself in subgroups with specific tasks and draw from the larger astrophysics community for additional support.

iii) All meetings of the NASA AST are open to nonmembers as observers, subject to export control restrictions.

iv) Ex-officio observers, including from partner Agencies appointed with NASA HQ concurrence, are allowed to attend NASA AST meetings, subject to export control restrictions.

v) All reports and other output of the NASA AST studies will be made publicly available, subject to export control restrictions.

vi) Financial support for travel only will be provided by NASA to the NASA AST members.

vii) The NASA AST will be in operation at NASA’s discretion. It is anticipated that the NASA AST will operate until mission adoption, at which point a different structure will be put in place, parallel to changes at ESA.
Points of Contact

The NASA points of contact for the AST are:

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Approved:

[Signature]

Paul Hertz
Director, Astrophysics Division
Science Mission Directorate

Date
12/21/18