

PhysPAG Status

NAC APS Meeting
20 October 2011

S. Ritz

See

<http://pcos.gsfc.nasa.gov/physpag.php>

Includes email sign-up for news and
announcements

The screenshot shows the PhysPAG website page. At the top is the NASA logo and the text "National Aeronautics and Space Administration" and "Goddard Space Flight Center". Below this are navigation tabs: OVERVIEW, PROJECTS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, STUDIES, and PROGRAM OFFICE. The main heading is "Physics of the Cosmos" with "PhysPAG" below it. The page is divided into several sections: "Links" (listing PhysPAG, Inflation Probe Science Analysis Group, Technology Science Analysis Group, NASA Advisory Council, and Astrophysics Subcommittee), "Objective" (describing the group's role in supporting the PCOS program), "Upcoming Meetings" (announcing a meeting in January 2012), "Past Meetings" (listing meetings in January 2011 and May 2011), "PhysPAG Announcements" (with a sign-up link), "Executive Committee" (listing members like Steve Ritz, Jason Rhodes, Shaul Hanany, Roger Brissenden, Liz Hays, and Guido Mueller), "Contact" (listing Rita Sambruna as the Program Scientist), "Program News" (with dates like 7 October 2011, 3 October 2011, 27 September 2011, 13 September 2011, and 1 September 2011), "Project News" (with dates like 13 September 2011 and 9 September 2011), and "Related Missions".

Executive Committee

- Roger Brissenden (CfA)
- Shaul Hanany (Minnesota)
- Liz Hays (GSFC)
- Guido Mueller (UFL)
- Jason Rhodes (JPL)
- Steve Ritz (UCSC), chair

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- Most recent EC activities:
 - Ongoing SAG work
 - PCOS newsletter feedback
 - Planning for January F2F at AAS

Acronyms

- APS = Astrophysics Subcommittee of the NASA Advisory Committee (NAC) Science Committee
- APS = American Physical Society

Technology SAG Summary

- TechSAG focus has been on PCOS Technology Assessment; now complete (see status chart)
- Web site: <http://pcos.gsfc.nasa.gov/sags/techsag.php> includes draft Assessment released for public comment and meeting notes
- Coordinated closely with the IPSAG in developing the Inflation Probe near-term and future technology requirements. Input to TechSAG fully consistent with the IPSAG technology development plan.
- Potential new tasks to be discussed at PhysPAG meeting to be held at January AAS
 - will bring proposals to APS

Technology SAG Summary

- PCOS Technology Assessment
 - Assessment intended for PCOS Program office for Program Annual Technology Report
 - Draft for Community comment placed on web July 27
 - Community input received by Aug 12 deadline; 14 inputs received.
 - Comments received on the technology roadmap (3), specific technology tables (6), and general comments (5)
 - TechSAG telcon held Aug 24 to discuss inputs and assign work
 - Updates made in response to Community input included adding:
 - Technology for a hard X-ray NuSTAR follow-on mission
 - Detectors for wide-field X-ray surveys
 - Alternative technology for X-ray timing science
 - 21 cm cosmology array (with overlap with COPAG science)
 - Future computation and processing needs to support the new technologies
 - Broadening of technology categories to clarify inclusion for Explorers
 - Oct 15 version considered final with possibility of minor updates to the 21-cm Cosmology Array (Table 9)
 - Following APS concurrence, assessment materials will be formally provided to the PCOS office and placed on TechSAG website.

Inflation Probe SAG Summary

- March 10, 2011: Dear colleague letter. Currently 50 signed up
- April 21: First Telecon (many participants)
 - Technology: Deep concerns about technology development funding
 - Mid-decadal review: is an essential mechanism to enable NWNH recommendations
 - Need a mechanism (project office?) to enable planning and organization for future space mission
 - Actions: work with project office on Technology Plan
- Following discussion in PhysPAG
 - Established committee of 7 to define an IP Technology Roadmap (Bock (JPL), chair + Gaier, Hanany, Irwin, Lee, Meyer, Moseley)
 - Worked closely with TechSAG; included two rounds of revisions with community
 - 10 page document is in its final form
- Actions:
 - With APS concurrence – submit document to PCOS and post on IPSAG web site

Gamma SAG Proposal

- **A possible new SAG: Action:** Liz Hays and Julie McEnergy (more help welcome!) drafting a brief (<1-page) proposal for a Gamma-ray SAG
 - Science over different energy domains (Compton through VHE)
 - **Deliverables of SAG** and notional timeline; scope of effort
- First draft ready. Now reaching out to members of the broader community for input and iteration.
- PhysPAG will then discuss and may bring it to APS for consideration.

Next F2F Meetings

- Next PhysPAG F2F meeting:
 - Full-day meeting immediately before winter AAS (co-located)
 - » **Request approved by AAS:** Sunday 8 January
 - Increase the turnout: more invited talks and plenty of notice.
 - EC working on agenda, choosing speakers. Outline:
 - » News from HQ
 - » TechSAG updates and discussions on next steps
 - » IPSAG updates and preparing for Mid-decade Review
 - » GammaSAG proposal and first steps
 - » **Focus topic:** X-ray opportunities in a changing landscape
 - » **Focus topic:** GW opportunities in a changing landscape
 - » AOB
- Also special session during the AAS meeting to summarize activities of all three PAGs.
 - » **Request approved by AAS:** 10 January 10:00-11:30
- Next-to-next F2F: April 2012 American Physical Society meeting, depending on date?

Discussion
