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Resume of EOEM Topical Group Activities, SWWT meeting, Vienna, Austria, Tuesday April 26, 2005
by N. Crosby

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PART 1:

Prior to the Vienna SWWT meeting I sent out an email to all EOEM topical group members asking if the EOEM members had been thinking about any of the ideas that were formulated during the EOEM Topical Group Meeting that was held on Tuesday 30th November 2004 at ESTEC:

- Think of potential financial sources for EO activities. People need to realize that funding will not just drop into their hands. As for a science application, an EO application must also be formulated in detail. In Europe people are often unsure about the types of funding opportunities that exist to sponsor EO activities.
- It was stated that one needs to reach the "Decision Makers - Politicians" too.
- "Journalists" - What are their educational backgrounds? How to reach them?
- Many languages exists - web-sites need translation.
- Conduct "CASE Studies" involving some of the EOEM Topical Group members and some "users", for example: Mission to Mars, Telecommunications, Airline and in collaboration develop EO material.

and/or if anybody had any news for the EOEM topical group? I received INPUT from one member (Thierry Dudok de Wit) who wrote:

>- the stereo mission will be launched next year; it provides an excellent opportunity to get in touch with the public through stereoscopy. Solar images are already pretty attractive, stereo pairs are even more. ESTEC apparently produced some postcards with the 3D Sun, this might help a lot.

>- I give a short course at the university on the physics behind GPS positioning, and have set up a web page for that. This page was meant for the students but I have since regularly been contacted by journalists + people involved in science education. My conclusion is: we should first seek themes the public is interested in, and then make use of that to talk about our science.

PART 2:

Tuesday morning, 26 April 2005, an EGU splinter meeting aimed at the EGU EO community was held (organized by myself): "Education and Outreach: Interdisciplinary Collaborations in the Geo- and Space-Physical Sciences". Several people attended the meeting, including people from the space physics community.

One of the points discussed was a joint "geo- and space-physical Education and Outreach" web-site. Our EOEM Topical Group Web-site and other European space weather websites could be linked to this web-site.

PART 3:

There still seems to be a general lack of enthusiasm regarding space weather EO activities. People think more about where potential funding will come from than linking EO activities to scientific activities. An EO activity does not necessary need to take a lot of time and cost loads of money!