

A PROPOSAL FOR A COST ACTION ON SPACE WEATHER

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ABSTRACT

There are many organisations widely distributed around Europe actively engaged in research in space physics, the science which provides the understanding of the processes involved in Space Weather. In addition many of these organisations are actively engaged in developing Space Weather services to address user needs. As part of the activities of ESA's Space Weather Working Team, a proposal for a COST Action on Space Weather is in preparation. COST is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research. The proposed Action concerns the coordination of the European effort in development of space weather related services in order to minimise duplication of effort and to maximise synergy arising from the variety of expertise that exists in Europe.

The proposed aims of the COST Action will be to:

- To coordinate European research into modelling and prediction of space weather;
- To identify unfulfilled data requirements and to promote a European policy on instruments to be deployed;
- To educate potential users of space weather data;

- To gather feedback from users which may be used to improve services;
- To exchange "best practice" among users and providers of space weather services;
- To set standards on data exchange.

The proposed Action will most likely consist of a number of working groups dealing with different aspects of Space Weather (eg. effects on satellites and aircraft, effects of humans, effects on ground-based technology). Also required will be a working group to deal with the development of service delivery, and a working group to liaise with COST Action 271, a current Action concerned with effects on radio propagation.

Input is being sought from interested parties and it is intended to submit the proposal for consideration by the appropriate COST Technical Committee in March 2002. The progress of the proposal may be monitored at the following website (where there is also a link to the COST website):

<http://www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/COST>