



ASPIICS: an externally occulted coronagraph for PROBA-3

Tuesday, 19 May 2015 17:30 (10 minutes)

PROBA-3 is a mission devoted to the in-orbit demonstration of precise formation flying techniques and technologies for future ESA missions. PROBA-3 will fly ASPIICS (Association de Satellites pour l'Imagerie et l'Interferométrie de la Couronne Solaire) as primary payload, which makes use of the formation flying technique to form a giant coronagraph capable of producing a nearly perfect eclipse allowing to observe the sun corona closer to the rim than ever before. The coronagraph is distributed over two satellites flying in formation (approx. 150m apart). The so called Coronagraph Satellite carries the camera and the so called Occulter Satellite carries the sun occulter disc. Italy plays a central role in ASPIICS having the responsibility for the formation-flying metrology and for the study on the control of the diffraction from the sun occulter disc. This presentation reviews the design and evolution of the ASPIICS instrument and the coronal science that will enable.

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