



X-RAY ASTRONOMY 2019

Current Challenges and New Frontiers in the Next Decade

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VERT-X: a new calibration facility for the ATHENA mirror assembly.

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Calibration of the ATHENA telescope is a critical aspect of the project and raises significant difficulties due to the unprecedented size, mass and focal length of the mirror assembly. The VERT-X project, financed by ESA and started in January 2019 by a Consortium led by INAF and which includes EIE, Media Lario Technologies, GPAP, and BCV Progetti, aims to design an innovative calibration facility. The VERT-X concept is based on a beam expanded and paralleled by means of an inverted X-ray collimator which covers the entire ATHENA optics through a raster-scan mechanism put at short distance. This machinery allows a vertical and compact design with significant benefits with respect to traditional long-tube traditional facilities.

Topic

Future missions

Affiliation

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