

Update on the Complementary Science Program of the ESA PLATO mission (PLATO-CS: launch 2024, 6 years of operations)

- 8% of the observing time will be used for PLATO-CS; this implies some 40,000 targets per pointing (there are 2 long pointings of 3&2 years each, and a step-and-star phase with several pointings of several weeks each);
- ESA will install a Guest Observer program with calls to the community to decide about the targets for PLATO-CS; successful Guest Observers will have 1 year proprietary rights. The GO programme is open to anyone interested;
- a Target-of-Opportunity (ToO) option has been accepted for the mission so that transient phenomena can be observed (reaction time to measure ToO is to be worked out with ESA);

PLATO has various observing modes, including 2-colour information for the brightest objects, downloading of imagettes, lightcurves computed onboard, etc. Various sampling rates will be used, ranging from 2.5 to 600 seconds.

Registered participants will be updated on PLATO-CS and will be able to provide input on the definition and organisation of the GO procedures. New participants are welcome:

<https://fys.kuleuven.be/ster/Projects/plato-cs/registration>

PLATO-CS conferences will be organised on a regular basis as of 2017, with the aim to discuss the field and target selection, optimal observing strategies and analyses methods, etc. so as to ensure excellent science exploitation of the mission.

Best regards,
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