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## **COMMUNICATIONS POLICY FOR PLANCK: PUBLIC RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

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## APPROVAL

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## CHANGE RECORD

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reason for change	PAGE(s)	paragraph(s)
<a href="#">Added missing document number</a>	<a href="#">cover</a>	

## INTRODUCTION

This document contains the policy of the Planck Science Team (hereafter the Science Team) on the public release of information in any form. This policy applies to all members of the Planck Collaboration. It will go into effect on 1 January 2008, and remain in force as long as the Planck Consortia remain in existence.

For the purpose of this policy, the Planck Collaboration is defined as the set of persons who have access to Planck scientific data during the proprietary period. All persons with such access must agree to this policy by signing the statement on the last page to maintain that access. A list of those individuals will be maintained on the Planck People webpage, <http://www.rssd.esa.int/index.php?project=IDIS&page=people>. Dissemination of Planck information to individuals on that list is *not* public release of information. Dissemination of Planck information to individuals *not* on that list *is* public release.

**Comment:** The Planck Collaboration as defined here is more restrictive than the Planck collaboration defined in the *Planck Policies for Scientists: Data Rights and Publications*. Here it is limited strictly to persons who have signed these policies.

**Comment:** At the end of the proprietary period, Planck data will become public. Data from an extended mission will not become public at the same time, and in any case there will be significant advantages for the teams that have worked hard on Planck data for years to continue working together. Much work will remain to be done to extract the full scientific return from Planck. We therefore anticipate that the Planck Collaboration, and these policies, will remain in existence and effect well past the end of the initial Proprietary Period.

**Comment:** An electronic signature mechanism will be established to help the maintenance of the list of people who have agreed this policy.

**Comment:** A list of the members of the Planck Science Team is maintained at [http://www.rssd.esa.int/index.php?project=PLANCK&page=Science\\_Team](http://www.rssd.esa.int/index.php?project=PLANCK&page=Science_Team).

## **P U R P O S E**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all information about Planck released publicly is accurate, reliable, and traceable. It is the goal of Planck to advance our understanding of the Universe by making, analysing, and interpreting path-breaking observations of the sky, and by public release of all results. The analysis of Planck data will be extremely challenging. It will be a slow process of understanding hardware behavior one aspect at a time, continual refinement of calibration, and ceaseless search for systematic effects. Intermediate results will often be misleading or simply wrong. Conducting this process in public, and in an uncontrolled way, would lead to irreparable confusion in the science community and inevitable loss of credibility for Planck. The only way to avoid this is to release information only after thorough verification, and in a coordinated way. The ultimate responsibility for the verification and release of information and results lies with the Planck Science Team. This document specifies the policies for public release of information that apply to every member of the Planck Collaboration.

## **DEFINITION**

**Public Release** refers to any communication of science data, housekeeping data, information about the performance of any part of the Planck mission, science results, or any other aspect of Planck from a member of the Planck Collaboration to anyone outside the Planck Collaboration, including students, post-docs, and members of the media, except as noted below. All means of communication are covered, verbal and written, by any medium, including but not limited to peer-reviewed papers, Ph.D. theses, talks, email, telephone conversations, hallway conversations, job interviews, and information left on blackboards, desks, and computers.

**Public Release** does *not* refer to performance or status reports that are part of the normal operations of the mission, normal communications between parts of the Planck project, reports to funding agencies, and so on. It *does* refer to release of science results to anyone, including funding agencies. Material already publicly released may be reused without restriction, but must always be acknowledged appropriately.

**Comment:** This Policy does not restrict reports required and expected by funding agencies. “Science results”, however, require thorough verification, responsibility for which lies with the Science Team as stated above. Any report of science results of necessity, therefore, requires approval by the Science Team. Reports on “scientific performance”, e.g., how well the mission is performing compared to expectations, are not “science results”, as defined here. As a standard practice, newsworthy results should always be communicated to funding agencies in advance of public release, since funding agencies participate in the release itself and should never be surprised. It goes without saying, but we’ll say it anyway, that under any circumstances communications to funding agencies should be made by the relevant PIs and the Project Scientist or their nominated representatives, not by co-Is or a-Is.

**Comment:** Talks (colloquia, conference presentations, public lectures, etc.) can include without restriction information on Planck already public, ensured by the review process described in a separate document. Any other release requires prior approval by the Science Team. In practice, new science results will be released in thoroughly validated papers intended for peer-reviewed publications. Talks including the new results will be coordinated with the submission of those papers, and with attendant press materials and media releases. Individual Collaboration members cannot decide for themselves what can be released.

**Comment:** Information, data, science results, or performance data that have not been released publicly, or are not approved for public release, cannot be used in a thesis, a thesis defense, or to fulfill any other degree requirement.

## **POLICY**

All public releases must be approved by the Science Team. The Science Team will establish a mechanism accessible by Collaboration members to be used for making requests for public release. Requestors must allow an appropriate period for the necessary reviews and a decision; however, lack of a decision cannot be taken as approval. A directory on LiveLink will contain an archive of approved materials, both graphics and text, available for use by team members. Acknowledgements specified with the materials must always be used.

**Comment:** Public release during the proprietary period will occur only in exceptional circumstances, e.g., information on discrete sources where follow-up is time-critical.

**Comment:** Until the time that the mechanisms identified in this document are fully established, all requests must be initiated by direct contact with a member of the Planck Science Team.

## **R E S P O N S I B I L I T Y**

All members of the Collaboration must acknowledge that they have read and understood this policy, and agree to follow it. Any member who becomes aware of a violation of this policy but does not report it will be considered a party to the violation. Co-Investigators have an additional responsibility to take steps to ensure that their associates understand and comply with the policy. Post-docs and graduate students must be supervised by a senior member of the Consortia, who will also be responsible for their following the policy and subject to penalties if they do not.

## **P E N A L T I E S**

The penalty for violation of the policy will be decided by the Science Team on a case by case basis, and will depend on the extent and severity of the violation. The normal penalty will be expulsion from Planck and permanent revocation of all rights to Planck data.

**Comment:** Perhaps the most difficult and important aspect of this policy is the change it requires in the normally free and open communication between colleagues on scientific work. While such openness is generally a good thing, it would have disastrous consequences if not modified in the case of Planck. Incorrect, incomplete, misunderstood, systematic-infested, and preliminary results would spread rapidly and confusingly, changing continuously. This is simply unacceptable. There is only one way to avoid this - *zero* communication outside of the Planck Collaboration until results are ready for public release.

**Comment:** If unreleased data or results are submitted anywhere for publication, the PST will contact the editors, inform them that the paper contains unreleased information in violation of a signed agreement, and ask for immediate rejection of the paper.



## **IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS**

Details on the implementation of this policy (mechanisms, documents, review processes, membership of committees, etc) will be put in place gradually and will be made known to the Collaboration in due time. Until the time that all such details are known, any request for public release can be initiated by a member of the Collaboration by contacting directly any member of the Planck Science Team.

## **A G R E E M E N T**

I have read, understood, and agree to follow the Planck policy on public release of information. I understand that penalties for violation of the policy may include expulsion from the Collaboration and revocation of all access to Planck data.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name, printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date