

Chandra Extremely Large Projects (ELP) Early Steps

- Concept discussed briefly with CUC at April 2006 meeting
- Extended discussion with CUC via email in July 2006 following Cycle 8 Peer Review
- Recommendations from CUC incorporated into proposed approach discussed with CUC at October 2006 meeting
- Updated proposal in response to CUC advice and iterated with Martin Weisskopf, Chris Reynolds, MSFC and CXC management

Chandra Extremely Large Projects (ELP) Summary of Dear Colleague Letter - Part 1

- To enable Chandra science projects which cannot be accomplished within present GO, LP, and VLP programs
- If established, solicit ELPs once every 3 years, reallocating 3Ms from VLPs and up to 2 Ms from LPs
- If established, first call for Cycle 10 (Dec 2007 CfP)
- No restrictions or pre-selection of science topic
- Review within Chandra Peer Review involving additional experts as appropriate
- Nominal period of 2 years to carry out an ELP

Chandra Extremely Large Projects (ELP) Summary of Dear Colleague Letter - Part 2

- Solicit brief white papers (3 pages maximum) describing possible ELP science projects
- Explain why an ELP is needed rather than GO, LP, or VLP
- Assess feasibility using calculations and simulations
- Not formal proposals, but intended to demonstrate need for ELP
- Due Feb 1, 2007
- To be reviewed by small group drawn from CXC and MSFC science leaders and possibly a few outside scientists

Chandra Extremely Large Projects (ELP) White Papers

- 10 White Papers received
- 1 email indicating no need for ELP
- 1 outside scientist - David Helfand - invited to join Martin Weisskopf, Belinda Wilkes and Harvey Tananbaum to review White Papers

Chandra Extremely Large Projects (ELP) White Paper Review Process

- Evaluated on need to exceed 3Ms limit of VLP, intrinsic science merit, and scientific/technical feasibility (1-3 score for each of 3 factors)
- List of VLPs and lowest 2/3 of selected LPs for Cycles 6, 7, and 8 provided as 5Ms sets to compare with possible ELP. Cycle 8 list not used since observations currently underway.
- Subset scoring highest selected for further discussion
- Met on April 13 with all panel members participating in discussion of each of highly rated WP
- Concluded that most, if not all, of science described in White Papers can be accomplished within current VLP category

Chandra Extremely Large Projects (ELP) Recommendations following White Paper Review

- No compelling arguments to establish Chandra ELPs

- Encourage proposers to request as much as 3Ms under VLP when warranted (Only 4 proposals in Cycles 5-8 requested as much as 2 Ms and non requested more)

- How to encourage 3Ms proposals:
 - Letter to authors of ELP White Papers
 - Explicit mention in subsequent CfPs
 - Other ideas?

- How to ensure fair review of 3Ms proposals:
 - Explicit statement to Peer Review panels and Big Project Panel that award of full 3Ms to single VLP is encouraged if justified on science merit
 - Other ideas?