The JCSA Perspective

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Committee Page: http://casca.ca/?page_id=288

Missions over the past decade

- MOST
- Planck
- Herschel
- FUSE
- Balloon missions: BLAST, EBEX, SPIDER



Current / Committed Missions

- BRITE-Constellation 6 nanosats, launches started last year, Canadian satellites launch next week!
- NEOSSat launched 2013
- ASTROSAT (UVIT) launch early 2015?
- ASTRO-H (CAMS) launch late 2015
- JWST (FGS/NIRISS) launch 2018

Future mission possibilities - 2020s

- CASTOR (Côté) technology studies, needs a Phase 0
- WFIRST (Hudson)
- WISH (Sawicki) Japanese IR wide field imager
- SPICA (Safari) (Naylor)
- ATHENA+ (Gallo) X-ray
- Balloon missions ongoing opportunities

The financial reality

- reduced CSA budget
 - expensive ongoing commitments
- current budget insufficient to lead a major mission
 - would need a new funding stream
- new space projects have very long lead times
 - need to stay connected to possible opportunities
- opportunities on balloons free launches, HQP training

Comments from the JCSA

- Many space astronomy missions are 'big science'
 - need for relevant agencies to work together
 - requires international partnerships
 - need to fund scientists as well as mission hardware (SSEP HQP training program is an excellent example)
- Would like Canada to be ambitious, we should be leading major missions

Key Issues for the MTR

- given financial constraints, how do we maintain a healthy space astronomy portfolio?
 - small role in many projects versus flagship mission
 - very far from ideal of other agencies with regular calls for missions of different sizes
 - need continuity for university scientists, CSA staff and industry
- lobbying for better-funded CSA
 - space is critical for our science, public interest in space is huge
- funding for science exploitation return on investment
 - NASA model?
 - collaboration with NSERC?

Figure 10: Space budgets of selected OECD and non-OECD countries as a share of GDP (2009)



Source: OECD.

GDP = gross domestic product

from the Emerson Report

Figure 5.2. Conservative estimates of space budgets of G20 countries, 2010

Current USD million

