

HERSCHEL USERS GROUP

MINUTES OF TENTH MEETING ESAC, 30-31 May 2016

Members attending: M. Barlow, L. Hunt, C. Kramer, A. Noriega-Crespo, D. Rigopoulou (chair)

HSC Staff attending: J. Bakker, D. Coia, P. Garcia-Lario, M. Kidger, G. Pilbratt, B. Merin, D. Teyssier

SUMMARY

The 10th Herschel Users Group (HUG) took place at the end of May 2016 at ESAC and was the last ever HUG meeting to take place in the Herschel “post operations” phase. The discussion during the meeting focused on the final Herschel Legacy products, the Herschel Science Archive (HSA) in the post-2017 era, and how to make sure that when “the lights are officially turned off” the Herschel Legacy continues. The aim is to ensure that science exploitation continues. In what follows we summarise **the salient points of the discussion and make a number of suggestions in the form of recommendations from the meeting:**

Herschel Science Archive (HSA)

The HUG stresses that Science Exploitation of Herschel data must continue way beyond 2017 and that any resources that are necessary must be made available to support the community in doing so. This must be ESA’s top priority. Beyond 2017, the Herschel Legacy Data will reside in the HSA. The continued presence (and maintenance) of the HSA is therefore an imperative to enable the community to exploit the Herschel datasets. The HSA is bound to become the focus and the unique source of data to train the next generation of far-infrared astronomers. This is an important aspect that cannot be overlooked. **The HUG strongly recommends that:**

- **funding should be made available to maintain not only the HSA but also associated links and tools for the foreseeable future and to ensure that the community can have access to data, tools and information related to the Herschel mission/products.**
- **ESA must ensure/commit to maintaining the HSA and related structure (e.g. Cosmos, Kayako etc) to enable scientists to access/exploit the Herschel data.**

Data Products

Naturally, the HSA is the repository of primarily legacy products. However, a number of additional datasets have been made available from GT and OTKP teams. Although in some cases products released by these teams have been superseded, in many cases, there may be added value in maintaining and making available these datasets to the wider community. Effort should be made to bring all data products (UPDPs, HPDPs etc.) in one

place (likely the Archive?) so that the community can access the information easily. This may include ftp repositories etc. but links should be advertised and made easy to find/follow.

Links between datasets and publications **should be maintained** post 2017.

Documentation

The HELL documentation should aim for posterity. It should be easily accessible (reside on 'livelink' and be searchable perhaps with a DOI number?). Livelink should be 'google searchable'. In addition, the HUG recommends that a number of documents suitable for different levels of expertise should be made available to the community. These should include **summary documents** addressed to users completely unfamiliar with Herschel **OR brief pocket-guides**: short documents giving an overview of instrumental capabilities and data products, in addition to the standard HELL documentation.

Herschel Helpdesk

The existence of a 'dedicated' helpdesk is an important one for Herschel. Although such a service was (and still is) available for ISO, it has been operating on a 'best-efforts' basis without any manpower resources allocated to it. However, given that Herschel was an 'ESA cornerstone' mission delivering a much larger (and admittedly more complex) datasets there is a clear need for an established Herschel Helpdesk. It does not need to be a Herschel-dedicated service and it could, in principle, be combined with other missions with manpower resources made available for the service. The HUG recommends that ESA implements a trial period of 2-3 years to make this service available in the immediate future. This will give a chance for the ESA management to gauge the return of making such a service available long-term to the IR/submm community.

Promoting the Herschel Legacy

Every effort should be made to promote Herschel products, tools, recipe books beyond 2017. The HUG cannot stress enough the case for 'ease of access' to the products/cookbooks etc. All information available should be searchable/identifiable by Google and cross-linked where possible.

The HUG wishes to express its most sincere thanks the Herschel Project Scientist, Mission Managers and the HSC staff for a very fruitful collaboration over the years on the Herschel project. The Herschel mission has been an absolute success and the HUG firmly believes that the successful trajectory of the mission will continue to rise in the years to come.