

3x Farewell, 3x Homage is Paid to Teams Involved in Herschel & Planck Development and Operations

In his farewell visits to ESOC (European Space Operations Centre, Darmstadt, Germany) on 8 April 2011, ESTEC (European Space Research and Technology Centre, Noordwijk, The Netherlands) on 27 April 2011, and ESAC (European Space Astronomy Centre, Villanueva de la Cañada, Spain) on 16 May 2011, the departing Director of Science and Robotic Exploration, Prof. D. Southwood, who retired from ESA on 30 April 2011, paid homage to the teams that were involved in Herschel and Planck development and operations. On each of these occasions he unveiled a bronze plaque acknowledging the teams involved at these sites in developing, testing, and operating the Herschel and Planck satellites, two world class missions the European Space Agency has launched on 14 May 2009.

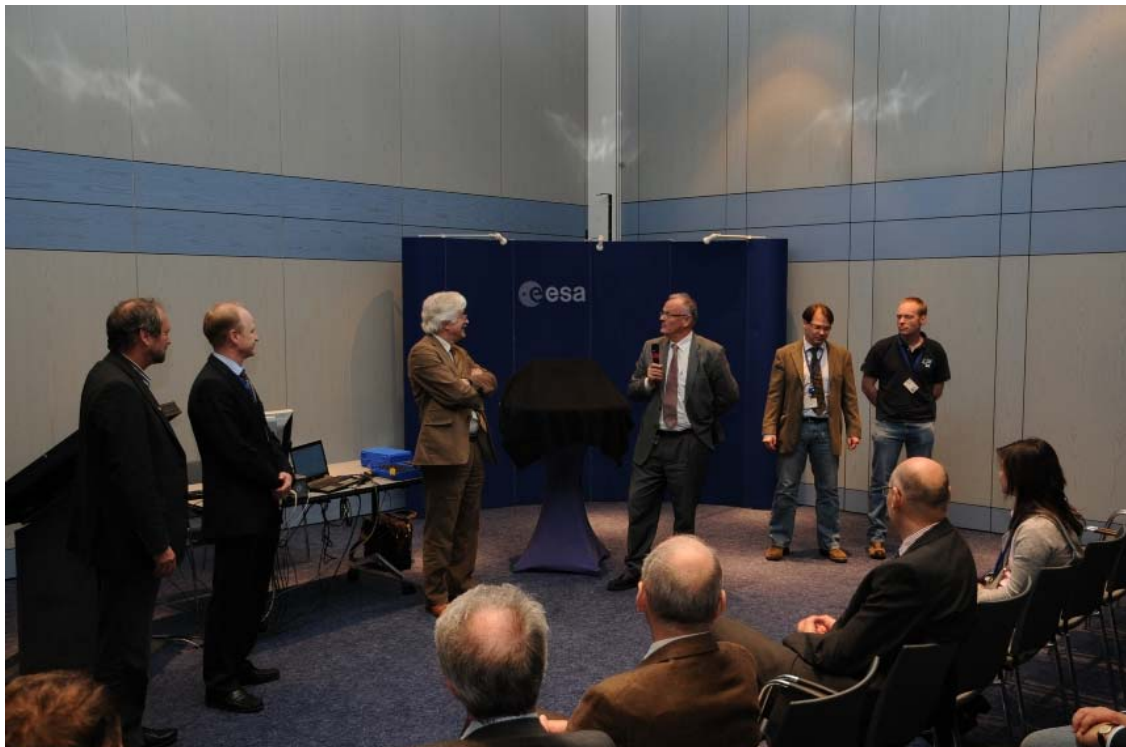
This document collects and makes publicly available some of the photographs that were taken at these occasions, together with a short explanatory text that in a few cases should be taken with a grain of salt.

Johannes Riedinger
Herschel Mission Manager
Noordwijk, 21 May 2011

The Event at ESOC in Pictures



D. Southwood during his presentation at ESOC



Presumably those standing in front knew what M. Kessler asked D. Southwood to unveil. It is unknown how much had been leaked beforehand to the teams that were to be honoured...



The plaque as unveiled at ESOC, unfortunately with a bit of specular reflection. It is signed by J.-J. Dordain, ESA Director General, D. Southwood himself and G. Winters, who at the time of the Herschel & Planck launch was Director of Operations and Infrastructure. This plaque, without the frame and *passé-partout*, will be mounted in the Operations Building close to the entrance of the Dedicated Control Room used by the Herschel and Planck Flight Control Teams.



Grouped around the plaque at ESOC (left to right): M. Warhaut (H/HSO-O), J. Riedinger (Herschel Mission Manager), A. Rudolph (H/HSO-OA), M. Kessler (H/SRE-O), D. Southwood (D/SRE), M. Schmidt (Herschel Spacecraft Operations Manager), C. Watson (Planck Spacecraft Operations Manager).



After the “big shots” had made room, the working level came into their own: Those members of the Herschel and the Planck Flight Control Teams who had been able to attend the ceremony posed with “their” plaque.



A division head in ESOC (A. Rudolph right), the Herschel Spacecraft Operations Manager (M. Schmidt, middle) and the Herschel Mission Manager (J. Riedinger, left) forget their roles for a moment and bring out a toast at the social follow-up event

The Event at ESTEC in Pictures



D. Southwood's farewell address at ESTEC. On the far left is A. Gimenez-Cañete, his successor as Director of Science and Robotics Exploration, who took over the reins 3 working days after this picture had been taken



"Consumables". One of the farewell presents to D. Southwood at ESTEC that did not make it to the end of the celebration: Models of ESA satellites that had been launched during D. Southwood's directorship made from chocolate! While their counterparts in space are still very much alive, none of these replicas were to see the end of the day.



Herschel in chocolate. Good we could eat and did not have to fly this. The bowl shaped primary and the tilted secondary mirror would not have delivered an image quality the Herschel users would have been happy with. Also, the mounting of the primary seems to have suffered somewhat in transport, which fortunately did not happen to “the real thing”

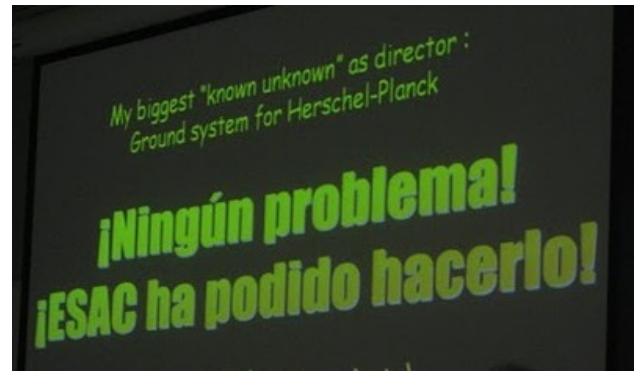
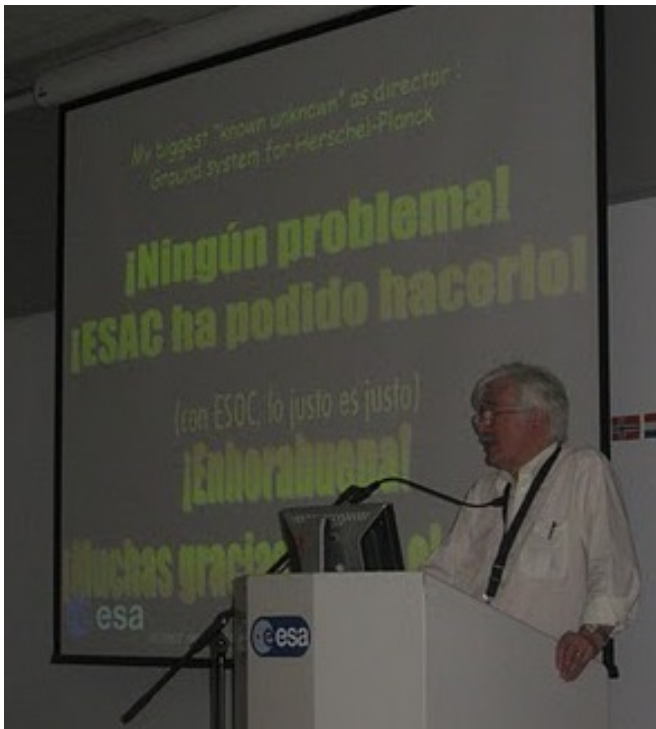


ESTEC's version of the plaque was signed by M. Courtois, Director of Technical and Quality Management (D/TEC) during Herschel's development and first year in orbit. It is planned to mount this plaque, together with pictures of the ESA Project Team, and the Herschel and Planck teams from industry, in the corridor that leads from the main entrance to the canteen at ESTEC

The Event at ESAC in Pictures



Quite a crowd attended D. Southwood's farewell at ESAC



Can you trust your eyes or is it a trick of poor lighting? Our (by this time: ex-) director is giving a speech without a tie and without a jacket!

But the message is clear: "My biggest 'known unknown' as director: Ground System for Herschel-Planck".

No problem! ESAC have delivered! (To be fair: together with ESOC) Congratulations and my thanks to you



In the “plaque unveiling ceremony” at ESAC the plaque is covered with an ESA flag and both, the D/SRE and his H/SRE-O lay hands on...



... with the “pensioner” expertly folding the flag M. Kessler interprets the text to the audience: The wording “In recognition of the teams that have successfully conducted Herschel and Planck scientific operations” intends to include the instrument teams at the ICCs and NHSC on Herschel and the DPCs on Planck in this recognition.



From left to right: A. Parmar (H/SRE-OA), D. Southwood (retired D/SRE), M. Casale (Planck Science Operations Manager), L. Metcalfe (Herschel Science Operations Manager), J. Riedinger (Herschel Mission Manager), M. Kessler (H/SRE-O).



ESAC's gift to the parting D/SRE: A framed montage of an aerial picture of VILSPA in 2001, D. Southwood's first year as D/SCI, of ESAC in 2011, D. Southwood's last year as D/SRE, a photograph of the people working at ESAC and a list with their signatures.



And here, as elsewhere, a toast to 10 successful years and many more to come. From the left: M. Kessler (H/SRE-O), V. Gomez (Head of ESAC), G. Schwehm (H/SRE-OS), D. Southwood (retired D/SRE)