

# STCE Newsletter

25 Mar 2013 - 31 Mar 2013



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The Solar-Terrestrial Centre of Excellence (STCE) is a collaborative network of the Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy, the Royal Observatory of Belgium and the Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium.

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## 1. The first European Space Weather Centre

ESA opened a brand new SSA Space Weather Coordination Centre (SSCC), the first in a planned series of centres that will provide up-to-date information from the Agency's Space Situational Awareness Programme. The SSCC is located at the Space Pole in Brussels and mainly manned with people from the Solar-Terrestrial Centre of Excellence.

The centre was formally inaugurated on 3 April by Mr Philippe Mettens, Chairman of the Belgian Science Policy Office, and Thomas Reiter, ESA Director of Human Spaceflight and Operations.

The SSCC will serve as the central access point to a portfolio of European space-weather expertise for customers including satellite operators, private industry, government agencies and research institutes. It includes the first European space weather helpdesk and, through this, rapid access to expert support on solar weather, ionospheric weather, the geomagnetic environment and the orbital radiation environment.

'The SSCC gives us the chance to validate our long-standing space weather expertise developed here and at our partner institutes and industry. We look forward to working with organisation across Europe,' said Ronald Van der Linden, Director General of ROB and General Coordinator of the Solar-Terrestrial Centre of Excellence.

The SSCC itself is a dedicated control room where operators monitor the Sun, the space environment and the Earth environment for early detection of possible effects of space weather phenomena on vital infrastructure and activities.



'The SSCC is being networked with a series of Expert Service Centres (ESCs) located throughout Europe, each providing specialised space weather data from one or more categories including solar weather, ionospheric data, space radiation, geomagnetic conditions and heliospheric weather,' says Michel Kruglanski, Manager of the SSCC.

In Europe's economy today, numerous sectors can potentially be affected by space weather. In the recent past, space weather has damaged or destroyed spacecraft, caused power blackouts affecting millions and disrupted crucial telecommunication services. The SSCC is a crucial first step in helping avoid these in the future.

**The SSCC will help get the right information to the right people at the right time.**



Relive the inaugurations : <http://www.stce.be/news/185/welcome.html>

Soon on YouTube

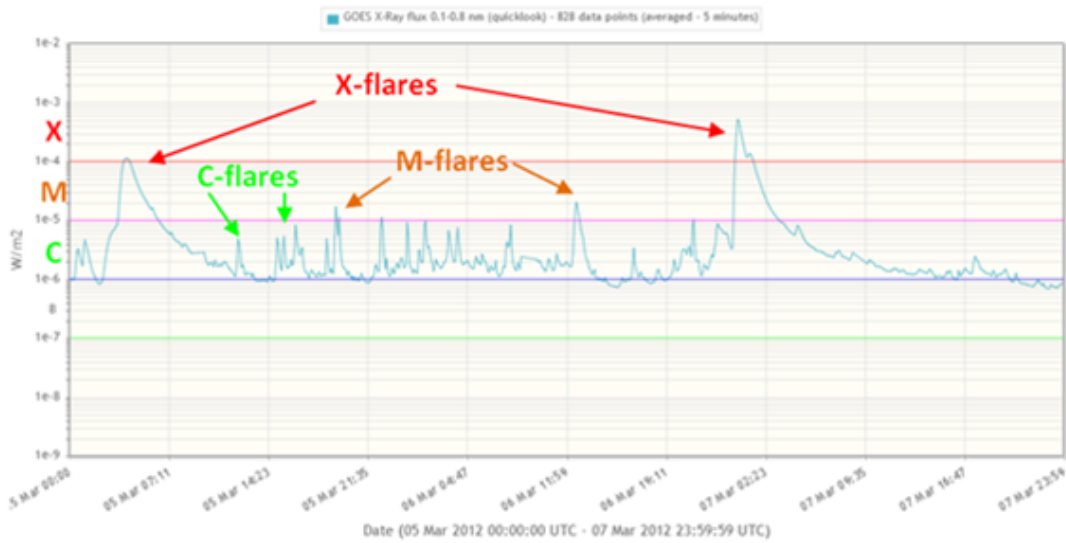
**What happened outside the spot lights?**



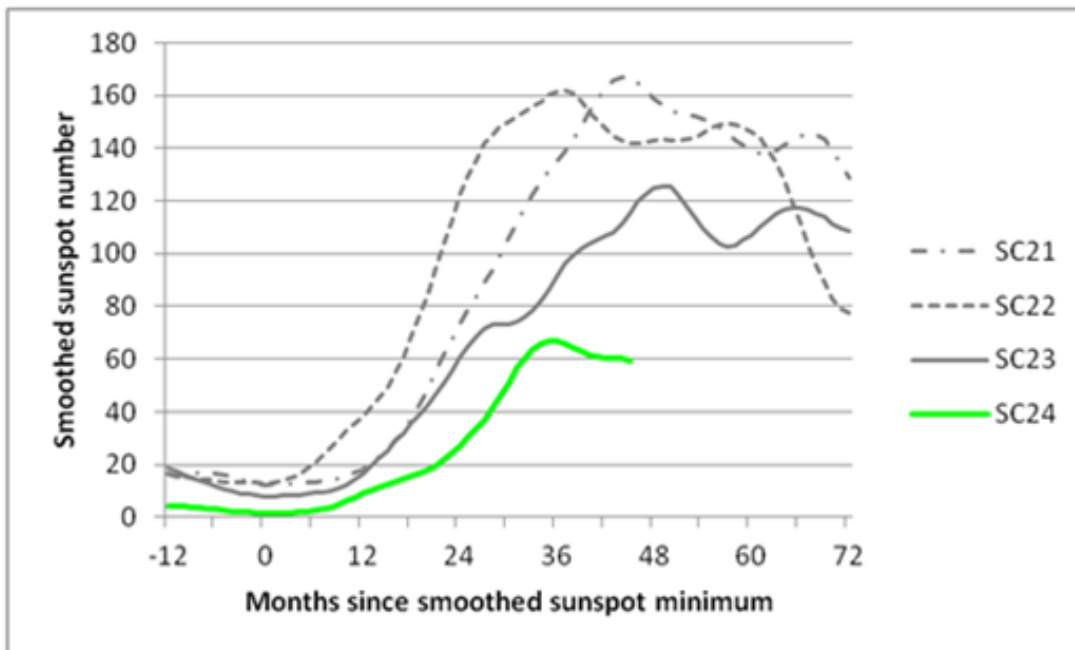
## **2. The numbers are down... (25 Mar 2013 - 31 Mar 2013)**

A solar flare is a sudden release of an enormous amount of energy due to magnetic reconnection in the solar atmosphere, usually above sunspot regions. This energy release takes place over the entire electromagnetic spectrum. Solar flares are often classified according to their peak strength in x-rays. Scientists usually use three categories: "C" (common), "M" (medium) and "X" (extreme), with each

category 10 times stronger than the previous one. As an example: an X6-flare is 10 times stronger than an M6-flare, and 600 times stronger than a C1-flare.



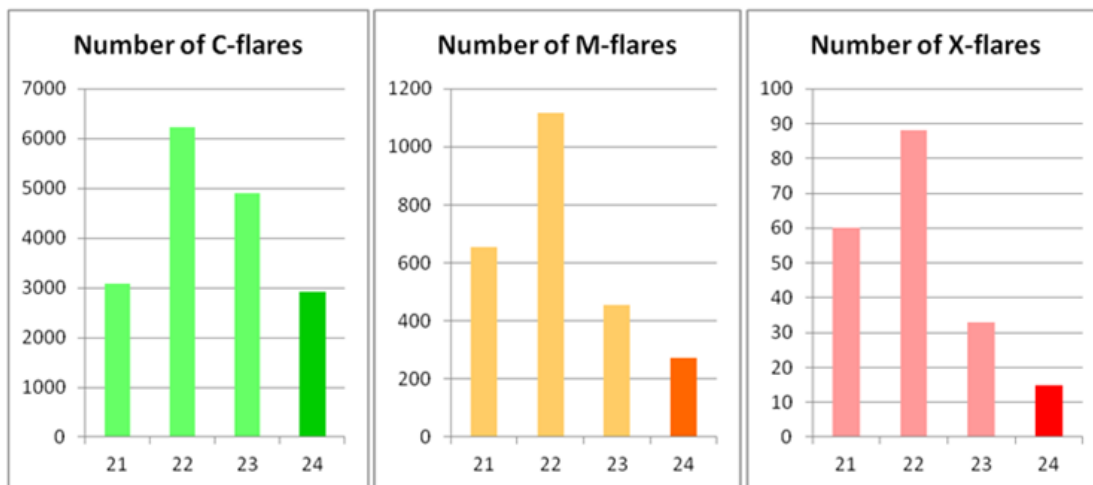
51 months have elapsed now since the previous solar cycle minimum in December 2008. Though sunspot activity has risen, it has also been relatively low, notwithstanding a brief intensification during the second half of 2011. Thus, it's no surprise that also the number of solar flares has been relatively low.



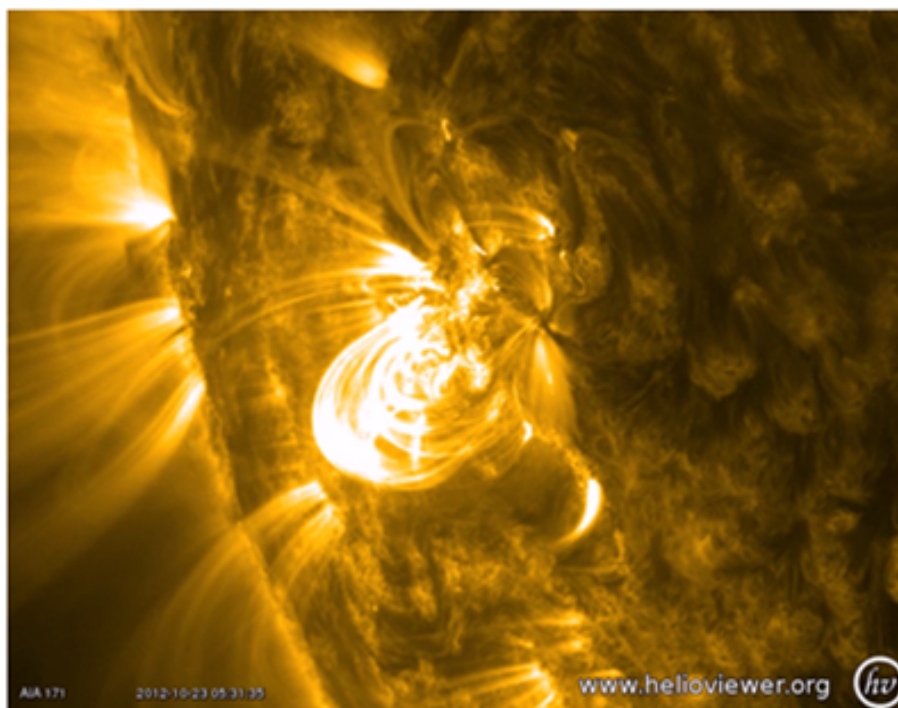
In order to get a feeling how low, a comparison is made with the previous 3 solar cycles for the same period (51 months), based on data from NOAA/NGDC (<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/stp/solar/>).

As can be seen in the image below, the number of flares for each category is the lowest for the ongoing solar cycle 24 (SC24). Only in the C-class, numbers are comparable to SC21. For the stronger M- and X-category, the numbers are depressingly low, with SC24 having produced so far only half of what SC23

produced. And these numbers pale when compared to the very active SC21 and SC22, attaining only about a quarter. An overview of the 15 X-class solar flares from SC24 can be found in a previous STCE Newsletter at <http://www.stce.be/news/167/welcome.html>



Isn't there any good news? Maybe. Both SC21 and SC23 started slow, but were quite active during the second half producing many M- and X-class solar flares. At the end of the cycle, SC21 even managed to produce more flares in all three categories than SC22, while SC23 is still well known for the Halloween events and for particular active episodes in January and September 2005. So, there's still hope for SC24, and we may see more X-class solar flares such as this X1.8-event from 23 October 2012 (image underneath; post-flare coronal loops)!

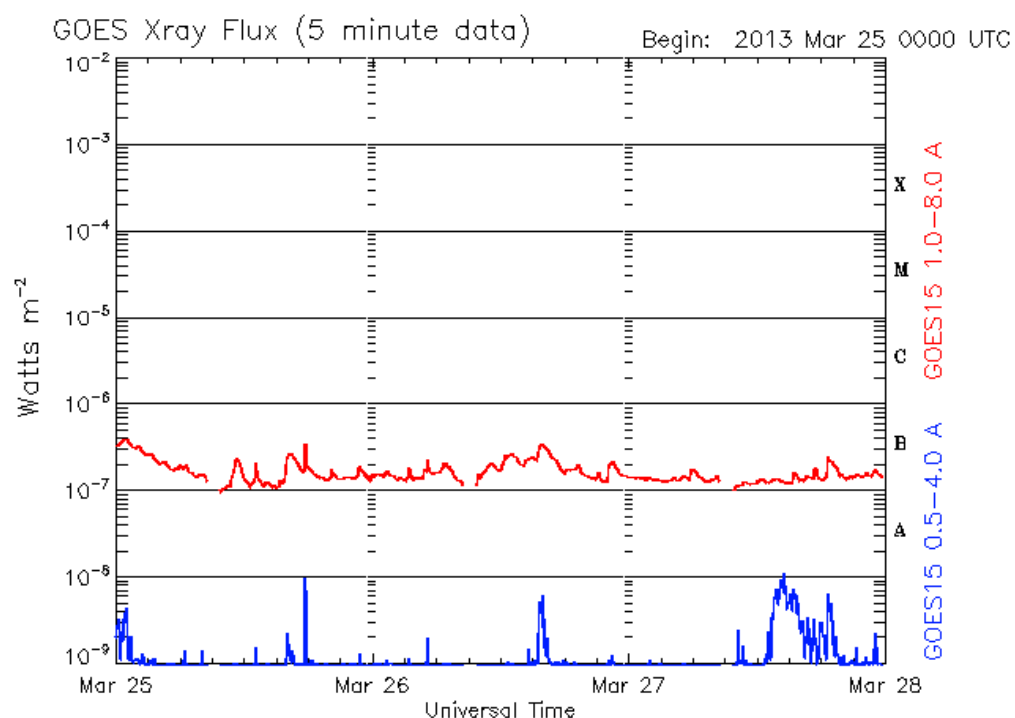


### 3. Review of solar and geomagnetic activity (25 Mar 2013 - 31 Mar 2013)

#### Solar Activity

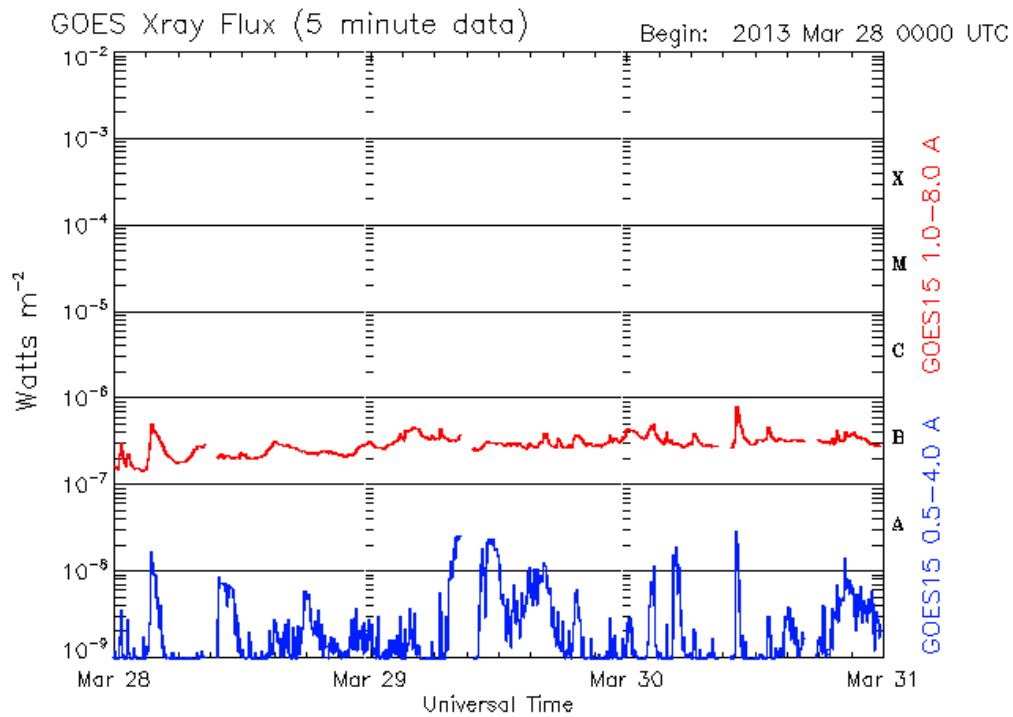
Solar activity was very low during the week, with no flaring activity above C level. The only noticeable event was a type II burst on March 30th, around 1320 UT, which was associated with a B4.8 flare in NOAA AR 1708, but without any clear signature of a CME.

The three graphs below give a 3 day overview of the Xray flux measured by the satellite GOES. The line stays within the B-level. Each day, there is a small interruption in the data: for this short period GOES does not have the Sun in its view. This happens in the eclipse season when GOES is in the shadow of the Earth.



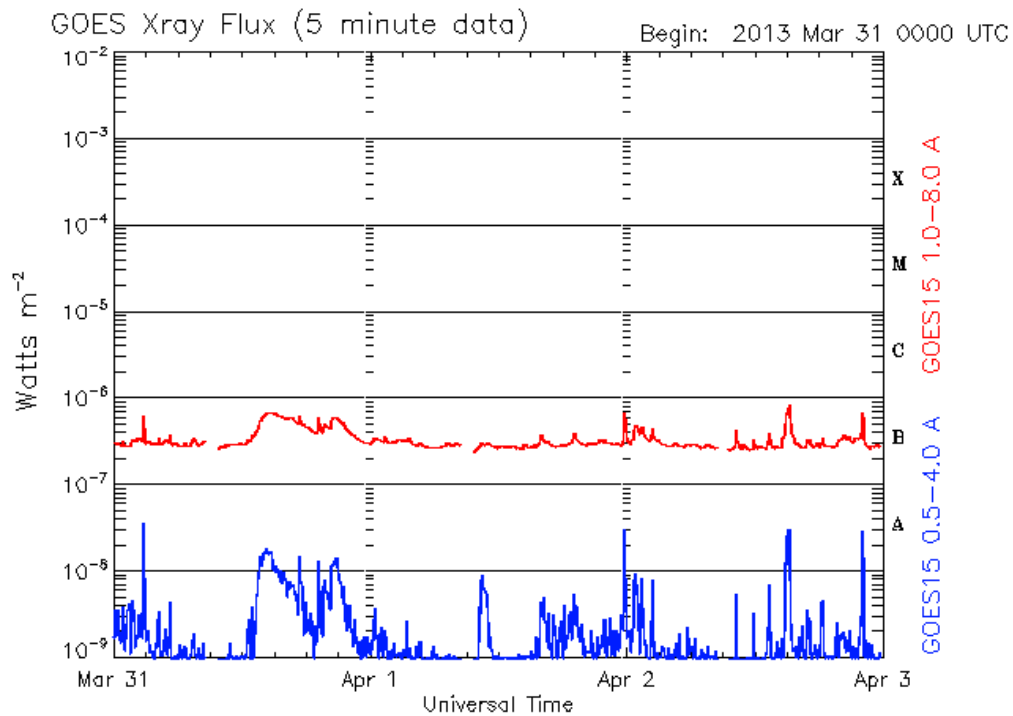
Updated 2013 Mar 27 23:55:11 UTC

NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA



Updated 2013 Mar 30 23:55:12 UTC

NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA



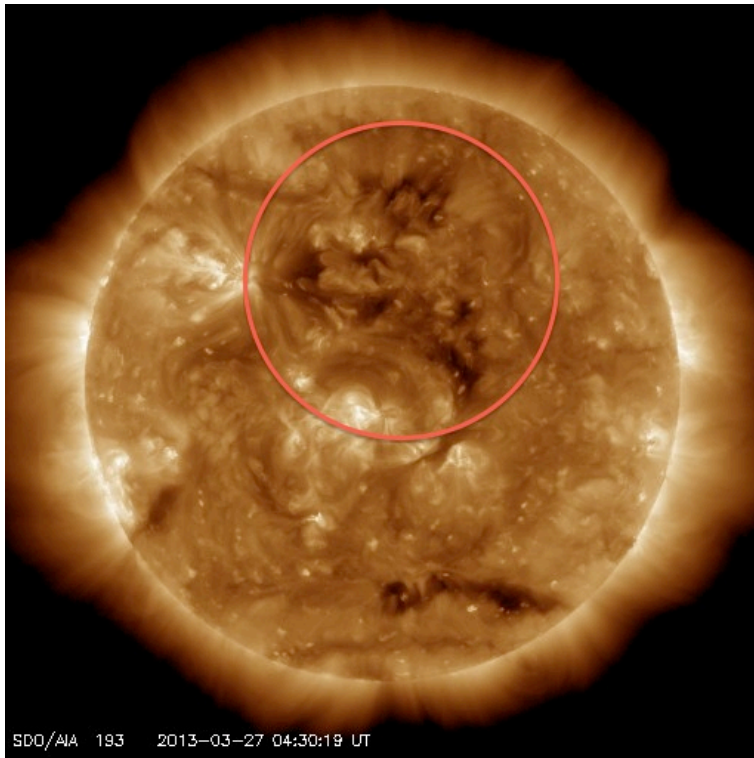
Updated 2013 Apr 2 23:55:12 UTC

NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

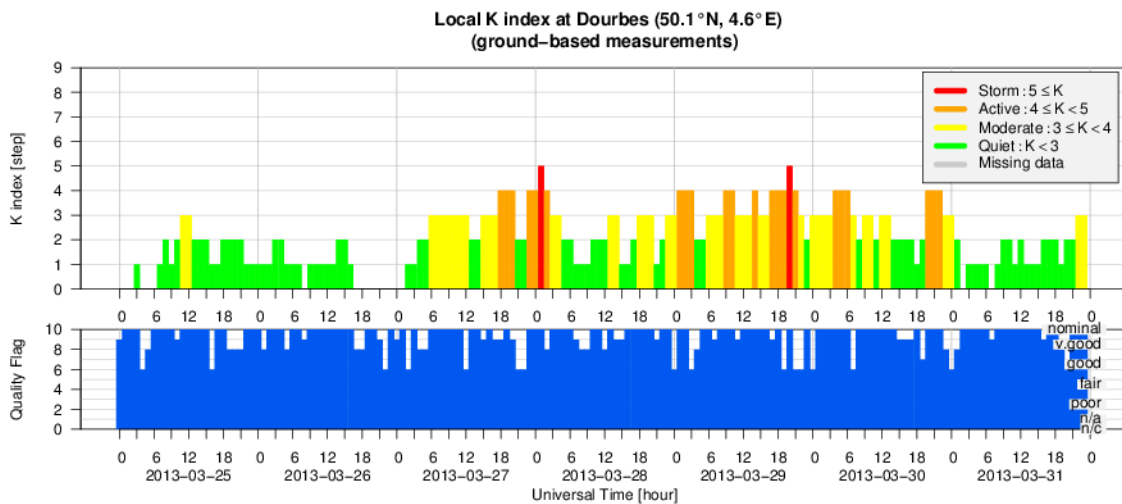
## Geomagnetic Activity

Geomagnetic activity was low for most of the week, but there was a period of active conditions from March 27 (1500 UT) to March 28 (0300 UT) and a period of active to minor storm conditions from March

29 (0600 UT) to March 30 (0300 UT). These disturbed periods were linked to the effect of a coronal hole at a geoeffective position on the Sun - see the picture below from SDO/AIA.



#### 4. Geomagnetic Observations at Dourbes (25 Mar 2013 - 31 Mar 2013)



#### 5. PROBA2 Observations (25 Mar 2013 - 31 Mar 2013)

Solar (flaring) activity was very low during the whole week. Only B-flares were recorded.



In order to view the activity of this week in more detail, we suggest to go to the following website from which all the daily (normal and difference) movies can be accessed: <http://proba2.oma.be/ssa>.

This page also lists the recorded flaring events.

A weekly overview movie can be found here: [http://proba2.oma.be/swap/data/mpg/movies/WeeklyReportMovies/WR157/2013\\_03\\_25\\_00\\_00\\_19\\_2013\\_03\\_31\\_21\\_53\\_43\\_SWAP\\_174\\_\\_AIA\\_304-hq.mp4](http://proba2.oma.be/swap/data/mpg/movies/WeeklyReportMovies/WR157/2013_03_25_00_00_19_2013_03_31_21_53_43_SWAP_174__AIA_304-hq.mp4);(SWAP174/AIA304 combination; HelioViewer.org).

Details about some of the events in this movie can be found further below (limited to SWAP imaging).

Several interesting events occurred, some of which are presented below.

Monday 25th:



Eruption near the south west limb @ 00:25 - SWAP difference image



PROBA2/SWAP 174 2013-03-25T01:47:38.230

Eruption on the north east limb @ 01:47 - SWAP difference image



PROBA2/SWAP 174 2013-03-25T16:03:29.143

Eruption on the west limb @ 16:03 - SWAP difference image

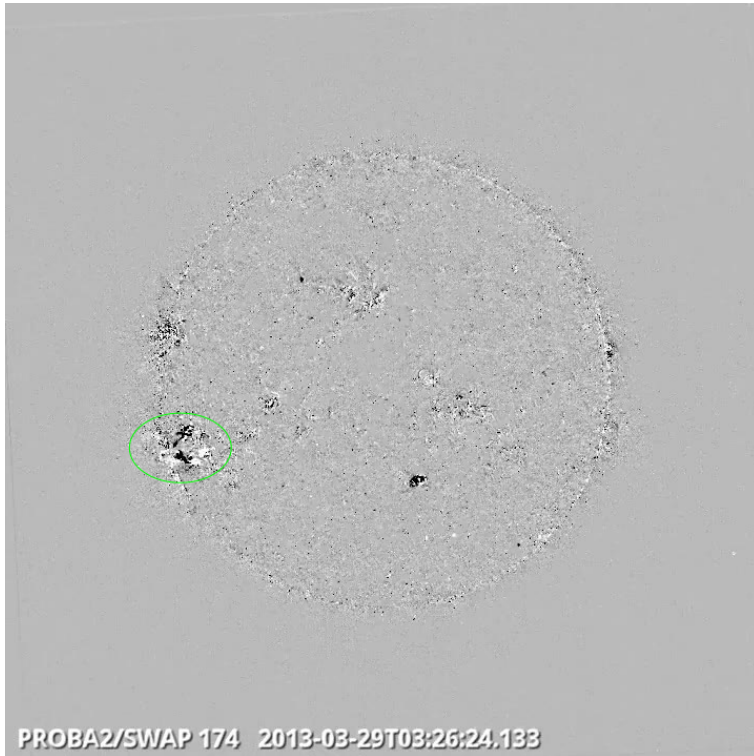
Tuesday 26th:



Filament eruption near the west limb @ 12:41 - SWAP difference image

Click here for a SWAP difference movie of this event: [http://proba2.oma.be/swap/data/mpg/movies/WeeklyReportMovies/WR157/Events/SWAP\\_20130326\\_WestEruptionPlusNEEruption\\_diff\\_1300.mp4](http://proba2.oma.be/swap/data/mpg/movies/WeeklyReportMovies/WR157/Events/SWAP_20130326_WestEruptionPlusNEEruption_diff_1300.mp4).

Friday 29th



PROBA2/SWAP 174 2013-03-29T03:26:24.133  
Eruption from AR 11710, near the east limb, @ 03:26 - SWAP difference image  
Saturday 30th



PROBA2/SWAP 174 2013-03-30T00:10:05.367  
Eruption from AR 11710, east quadrant, @ 00:10 - SWAP difference image

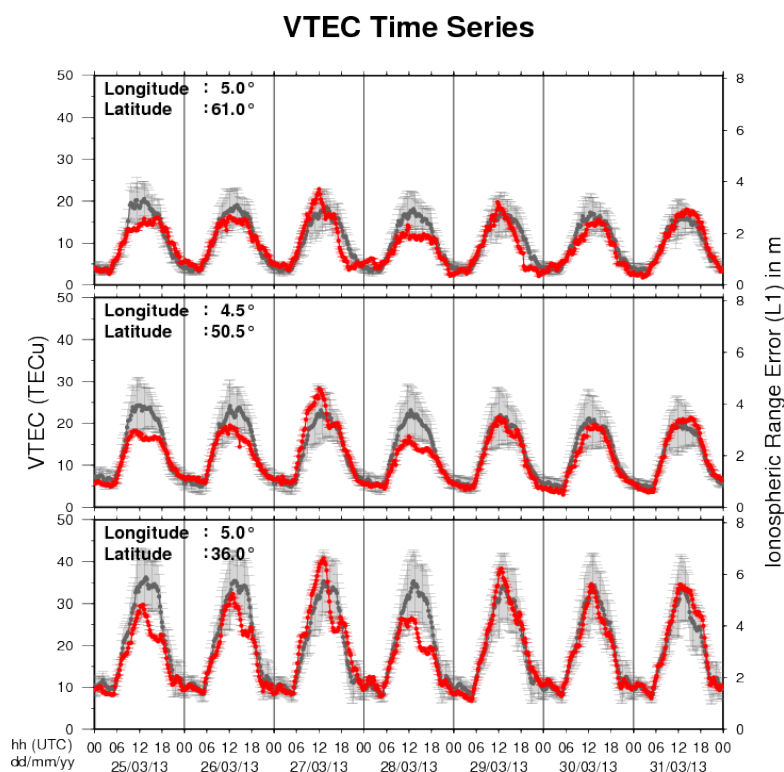
Sunday 31th



Eruption on the West limb, @ 11:03 - SWAP difference image

During the whole week, AR 11704, which appeared on the East limb at the beginning of the week, causes its trailing filament to brighten regularly.

## 6. Review of ionospheric activity (25 Mar 2013 - 31 Mar 2013)



The figure shows the time evolution of the Vertical Total Electron Content (VTEC) (in red) during the last week at three locations:

- in the northern part of Europe (N61°, 5°E)
- above Brussels (N50.5°, 4.5°E)
- in the southern part of Europe (N36°, 5°E)

This figure also shows (in grey) the normal ionospheric behaviour expected based on the median VTEC from the 15 previous days.

The VTEC is expressed in TECu (with  $\text{TECu} = 10^{16}$  electrons per square meter) and is directly related to the signal propagation delay due to the ionosphere (in figure: delay on GPS L1 frequency).

The Sun's radiation ionizes the Earth's upper atmosphere, the ionosphere, located from about 60km to 1000km above the Earth's surface. The ionization process in the ionosphere produces ions and free electrons. These electrons perturb the propagation of the GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) signals by inducing a so-called ionospheric delay.

See [http://stce.be/newsletter/GNSS\\_final.pdf](http://stce.be/newsletter/GNSS_final.pdf) for some more explanations ; for detailed information, see [http://gnss.be/ionosphere\\_tutorial.php](http://gnss.be/ionosphere_tutorial.php)

## 7. Future Events

For more details, see <http://www.spaceweather.eu/en/event/future>

### European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2013 in Vienna, Austria

Start : 2013-04-07 - End : 2013-04-12

The EGU General Assembly 2013 will bring together geoscientists from all over the world into one meeting covering all disciplines of the Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences. Especially for young

scientists, it is the aim of the EGU to provide a forum where they can present their work and discuss their ideas with experts in all fields of geosciences. The EGU is looking forward to cordially welcoming you in Vienna.

Website:

<http://www.egu2013.eu/home.html>

### **Causes and Consequences of the Extended Solar Minimum Between Solar Cycles 23 and 24 (4CESM) in Key Largo, FL (USA)**

Start : 2013-04-08 - End : 2013-04-12

The most recent solar minimum, solar cycle 23-24 minimum, was unusually long (266 spotless days in 2008, the most since 1913), and the magnetic field at the solar poles was approximately 40% weaker than the last cycle; and unusually complex (the solar wind was characterized by a warped heliospheric current sheet, HCS, and fast-wind streams at low latitudes: the fast-wind threads the ecliptic more commonly in 2008 than 1996.) This complexity resulted in many effects observed from Sun to Earth, with many observations indicating unusual conditions on the Sun, in the heliosphere, and in the magnetosphere, ionosphere, and upper atmosphere of the Earth.

This remarkable set of conditions provide the scientific community with an exceptional opportunity to assess the nature and structure of a very quiet Sun, and an upper atmosphere relatively devoid of solar influences, helping to provide a better understanding of the relative roles of solar activity and internal variability in the dynamics of the Earth's upper atmosphere and ionosphere. Such an understanding requires a multidisciplinary approach.

The main goal of the conference is to bring together the solar, heliospheric, magnetospheric, upper atmosphere, and ionospheric communities to debate and discuss interdisciplinary work and reach a better understanding of the nature and structure of a very quiet Sun, and of an upper atmosphere relatively devoid of solar influences, and in doing so, to help clarify the role of solar activity in the dynamics and variability of the Earth's upper atmosphere and ionosphere relative to the internal variations.

Website:

<http://chapman.agu.org/solarminimum/>

### **The physics of flares in the lower solar atmosphere in London, UK**

Start : 2013-04-12 - End : 2013-04-12

Solar flares are impulsive releases of energy in the Sun's corona and yet it is emission from the lower atmosphere (the photosphere and chromosphere) that contains the bulk of the energy. This radiation also provides some of the best diagnostics of the flaring process. The availability of optical, UV/EUV and hard X-ray observations, made with the current fleet of space-based (SDO, Hinode, RHESSI, etc.) and ground-based (ROSA, IBIS, Big Bear, etc.) observatories, combined with recent developments in flare modelling, presents a timely opportunity to study the cause and effect of energy deposition in the lower solar atmosphere. The combination of multi-wavelength observations with advanced numerical simulations can provide key insights into the processes of particle acceleration, plasma heating, energy transport, and wave propagation.

This Royal Astronomical Society discussion meeting will focus on work investigating the response of the solar and stellar atmospheres during a flare's impulsive phase and we welcome contributions from both observation and theory.

Website:

[http://www.astro.gla.ac.uk/?page\\_id=827](http://www.astro.gla.ac.uk/?page_id=827)

### **Space Weather Workshop 2013 in Boulder, CO (USA)**

Start : 2013-04-16 - End : 2013-04-19

The 2013 Space Weather Workshop will be held April 16 - 19, in Boulder, Colorado. This meeting will bring together the customer, forecaster, vendor, and research communities to focus on the impacts of space weather, on forecasting techniques, and on recent scientific advances in predicting conditions in the space environment.

The program will highlight space weather impacts in several areas, including ionospheric disturbances, geomagnetic storms and their solar drivers, radiation belts, and solar energetic particles. Representatives from industries impacted by space weather will be invited to attend, including those from commercial airline, electric power, satellite operations, and navigation/communication industries.

Website:

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/sww>

### **Synoptic Network Workshop in Boulder, USA**

Start : 2013-04-22 - End : 2013-04-24

The workshop is being held to discuss and gather community input on science requirements, capabilities and instrumentation for a next-generation synoptic network of solar observing instruments. It is highly probable that such a network should obtain multi-wavelength data, and the intended targets include space weather, helioseismology and solar magnetic fields.

Website:

<https://www2.hao.ucar.edu/synoptic-network-workshop>

### **Space Weather And Plasma in Space in Tel Aviv, Israel**

Start : 2013-04-28 - End : 2013-05-03

Space weather is a new emerging field of space science focused on understanding societal and technological impacts of the solar-terrestrial relations. The Sun has tremendous influence on Earth's space environment, releases energy in the form of electromagnetic and particle radiation that can damage or destroy satellite, navigation, communication and power distribution systems, influence on atmosphere state, magnetosphere and ionosphere activity. Our workshop IsraSWAPS-2013 will be dedicated to the origin, evolution and predictability of physical processes that lead to the space weather hazards. Particular attention will be devoted to application of plasma physics methodologies and achievements to space weather problems. The meeting will also focus on using of plasma understanding as a test bed for astrophysics and space physics. Contributions in observations, theory, numerical simulations, and experiment are welcome.

Website:

[http://www.tau.ac.il/institutes/advanced/cosmic/Conferences/20013\\_IsraSWAPS/SWAPS-2013.htm](http://www.tau.ac.il/institutes/advanced/cosmic/Conferences/20013_IsraSWAPS/SWAPS-2013.htm)

### **Solar Storms Seminar at IET London, UK**

Start : 2013-04-30 - End : 2013-04-30

The IET will hold its second, case-study driven solar storms seminar on 30th April 2013. The extended title of this seminar is: 'Building a business case to protect and prepare ground based infrastructure against geomagnetic storms'. This is an event for science and business come together to grapple with the challenges of solar storm forecasting to culminate in engineering solutions that can withstand the effects of solar storms.

Website:

<http://conferences.theiet.org/solar-storms/index.cfm?origin=/solar-storms>

### **5th EISCAT\_3D User Meeting in Uppsala, Sweden**

Start : 2013-05-06 - End : 2013-05-08

The 5th EISCAT\_3D User Meeting is intended to focus on data analysis and management, while on Tuesday and Wednesday pre-noon (May 7-8) all science topics to be studied by EISCAT\_3D shall be covered.

Website:

[http://www.space.irfu.se/workshops/EISCAT-3D\\_User2013/](http://www.space.irfu.se/workshops/EISCAT-3D_User2013/)

### **NSO Workshop #27: 50 Years of the Seismology of the Sun and Stars in Sunspot, NM (USA)**

Start : 2013-05-06 - End : 2013-05-10



In the last 50 years, helioseismology has made significant contributions to the knowledge of the Sun's interior physics and has led the way to asteroseismology. We have now reached an era where more sophisticated questions are being asked to understand the subtle properties of the Sun and other stars due to the synoptic and high-resolution observations available from BISON, GONG and space missions such as SOHO, SDO, CoRoT and Kepler.

On this occasion, a workshop on the theme of '50 years of the seismology of the Sun and stars' is being organized to reflect the progress that has been made as well as to focus on future goals. We plan to bring together helio- and asteroseismologists, theorists and observers in a journey that will take us from the interior of the Sun and its magnetism towards the structure of distant stars and activity cycles.

Website:

<http://www.nso.edu/workshops/2013>

## **AGU Meeting of the Americas, in Cancun, Mexico**

Start : 2013-05-14 - End : 2013-05-17

Welcome to the Meeting of the Americas, a Joint Assembly that covers topics in all areas of the geophysical sciences. Join your colleagues, including Earth and space scientists, educators, students, and other leaders at the Cancun Center in Cancun, Mexico, 14-17 May 2013 as they connect to present groundbreaking research. Sandy beaches and turquoise waters together with Mexican hospitality make this a unique site for another successful Joint Assembly!

Session 'SH10: Solar eruptions from the photosphere to the heliosphere' focuses on observational, modeling and theoretical studies of coronal mass ejections (CMEs) from their formation and initiation at the Sun to their interaction with the solar wind and other eruptions in the interplanetary medium. We are particularly interested in recent advancements on i) the formation or pre-existence of flux ropes as revealed by numerical simulations and SDO observations, ii) the rotation, expansion, deflection, deformation and deceleration of CMEs as they propagate in the corona and heliosphere as revealed by STEREO, IPS and radio observations and simulations, and, iii) the understanding and predicting of CME geo-effectiveness and how it could be improved by future missions.

Website:

<http://moa.agu.org/2013/scientific-program/sessions/sh10/>

## **6th IAASS Conference "safety is not an option" in Montreal, Canada**

Start : 2013-05-21 - End : 2013-05-23

The sixth IAASS Conference "safety is not an option", organized in cooperation with the International Space Safety Foundation (ISSF), is an invitation to reflect and exchange information on a number of topics in space safety and sustainability of national and international interest. The conference is also a forum to promote mutual understanding, trust, and the widest possible professional international cooperation in such matters. The International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety is a non-profit organisation dedicated to furthering international cooperation and scientific advancement in the field of space systems safety. IAASS is a member of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), and Permanent Observer at the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). The association exists to help shape and advance an international culture of space safety (technical, organisational and socio-political) which would contribute to make space missions, vehicles, stations, extraterrestrial habitats, equipment and payload safer for the general public, ground personnel, crews and flight participants. The association also pursues the safeguarding of the on-orbit environment to allow unimpeded access to space by future generations.

Website:

<http://iaassconference2013.spacesafetyfoundation.org/>

## **SPENVIS User Workshop in Brussels, Belgium**

Start : 2013-05-22 - End : 2013-05-24

The SPENVIS User Workshop will be held at the Royal Library of Belgium, Belgium's national and scientific library. It is one of the most important libraries in Europe since its history goes back to the 15th century. It is located in the heart of Brussels at walking distance from the Central Railway Station.

The main objective of this event is to bring the SPENVIS users together to share their experience and to identify their requirements. The workshop will focus on the current and the forthcoming Next Generation SPENVIS systems.

Topics include:

- \* Current and future SPENVIS overview
- \* Space Radiation Models and their accuracy
- \* Space Environment Effects (charging, SEE, degradation, micro-particle impacts)
- \* Geant4 Tools
- \* Educational use of SPENVIS
- \* SPENVIS and other tools

Website:

<http://www.spervis.oma.be/workshop/2013/>

### **2013 UAHuntsville Space Weather Summer School in Huntsville, Alabama, USA**

Start : 2013-05-29 - End : 2013-06-07

Website:

<http://swssuah2013.pbworks.com/w/page/60509553/FrontPage>

### **Meeting on Solar Wind Turbulence in Kennebunkport, Maine, USA**

Start : 2013-06-04 - End : 2013-06-07

Our goal is somewhat different from more familiar conferences and is designed with the SHINE model in mind. We are inviting very few speakers who we are asking to give review and introductory talks for each topic we hope to discuss. Those invited review talks will be largely non-controversial and focus upon agreed-upon results. They are also likely to contain challenges for the participants to explain. Then, the bulk of the time is left unscheduled and we ask the participants to give short, focused talks that lead to discussion and debate on the fundamental aspects of the subject at hand.

We expect that everyone who attends will have ample opportunity to enter into the debate and we hope to stimulate a lively discussion of fundamental physics.

We hope you will join us. Bring multiple 5-minute talks that attempt to make specific points so you can enter into the debate clearly and propel the discussion forward. No one is expected to be given a large block of time to speak. The goal is meaningful and focused debate. Remember, you may not convince everyone, but there will be many participants who want to understand your point of view. Our goal is to debate and illuminate, providing inspiration to all.

Website:

<http://www-ssg.sr.unh.edu/mag/Kennebunkport2013/Kennebunkport2013.html>

### **Space Climate Symposium-5 in Oulu, Finland**

Start : 2013-06-11 - End : 2013-06-15

Space Climate is an interdisciplinary science that deals with the long-term change in the Sun, and its effects in the heliosphere and in the near-Earth environment, including the atmosphere and climate. A special focus will be on studies of the causes, consequences and implications of the present, unusually low solar activity since solar cycle 23 that, most likely, indicates the imminent end of the Modern Grand Maximum of solar activity. Other topics include solar dynamo, solar irradiance variations, solar wind, geomagnetic field and activity, cosmic rays and cosmogenic isotopes, and solar effects on different layers of the atmosphere and on local and global climate, as well as possible solar effects on human health and on the development of human cultures.

Website:

<http://www.spaceclimate.fi/>

### **ISEST (International Study for Earth-Affecting Solar Transients) Workshop in Hvar, Croatia**

Start : 2013-06-17 - End : 2013-06-20

The workshop is to improve the scientific understanding of the origin and propagation of solar transients, and develop the prediction capacity of these transients' arrival and potential impact on the Earth. This workshop is the activity of the ISEST program in CAWSES-II / Task Group 3. The workshop engages coordinated international activities in observation, theory and modeling, and involves scientists in both developed and developing countries, and provides an online platform for educational opportunities for students.

Website:

<http://spaceweather.gmu.edu/meetings/ISEST/Home.html>

### **SWWT Plenary Meeting**

Start : 2013-06-19 - End : 2013-06-19

The SWWT is a forum open to European experts in a variety of both scientific and application oriented fields relating to space weather. The SWWT plays an important role in advising ESA in space weather strategy and acts as a forum for discussion amongst the European space weather community. The SWWT is responsible for promoting coordinated European space weather activities at both national and industry levels. The SWWT seeks to identify and discuss potential collaborations and/or synergies with other structures or organisations such as the EC FP7 & COST programmes and others.

Each year they organise a Plenary Meeting.

### **Atomic physics, plasma spectroscopy, and space solar physics: Celebrating the achievements of Alan Gabriel at Orsay, France**

Start : 2013-06-20 - End : 2013-06-20

This conference aims at presenting the status of atomic physics, plasma spectroscopy, and solar physics from space, put in the perspective of the achievements made with SOHO and the missions that followed. In addition, our friend and colleague Alan Gabriel will celebrate his 80th birthday. In anticipation of this, it will be an excellent opportunity to celebrate his many (and continuing) contributions to science in various fields. They range from atomic physics and plasma spectroscopy (theta-pinch machine) to solar and space physics - from Skylab, SMM (PI of XRP), Spacelab2, to SOHO (GOLF, CDS, EIT, SUMER) - as well as science management, including RAL (UK), IAS (France), ESA SSWG (and SSAC), NASA/ESA Solar Orbiter/Sentinels.

Presentations addressing new results in atomic physics, plasma spectroscopy and solar physics are welcome, along with reminiscences related to Alan, which are warmly encouraged.

Website:

<http://www.ias.u-psud.fr/AHG/>

### **ILWS Science Workshop in Irkutsk, Russia**

Start : 2013-06-23 - End : 2013-06-29

The 2013 ILWS Science Workshop will take place June 23-29, 2013 in Irkutsk, Russia and will be hosted by the Institute of Solar-Terrestrial Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Website:

[http://en.iszf.irk.ru/ILWS\\_2013](http://en.iszf.irk.ru/ILWS_2013)

### **Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) Annual Meeting in Brisbane (Australia)**

Start : 2013-06-24 - End : 2013-06-28

Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) was established in 2003 to promote geosciences and its application for the benefit of humanity, specifically in Asia and Oceania and with an overarching approach to global issues.

Asia- Oceania region is particularly vulnerable to natural hazards, accounting for almost 80% human lives lost globally. AOGS is deeply involved in addressing hazard related issues through improving our understanding of the genesis of hazards through scientific, social and technical approaches.

AOGS holds annual conventions providing a unique opportunity of exchanging scientific knowledge and discussion to address important geo-scientific issues among academia, research institution and public.

Recognizing the need of global collaboration, AOGS has developed good co-operation with other international geo-science societies and unions such as the European Geosciences Union (EGU), American Geophysical Union (AGU), International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), Japan Geo-science Union (JpGU), and Science Council of Asia (SCA).

Website:

<http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2013/public.asp?page=home.htm>

### **2013 Radiation Belts Workshop at Island of Santorini, Greece**

Start : 2013-06-30 - End : 2013-07-04

The 2013 Radiation Belts Workshop is the first of a series of radiation belt meetings that are planned to be held in the Aegean islands.

As its title conveys, this first workshop includes sessions on radiation belt research and specification. The workshop focuses, in particular, on the properties of low frequency electromagnetic waves and their effects on radiation belts dynamics. The other highlight of the workshop is the ongoing international effort on improvement of the AE9/AP9 Next Generation Radiation Specification Models. These sessions will be complemented with presentations of the progress achieved by a most relevant FP7-Space project titled MAARBLE (Monitoring, Analyzing and Assessing Radiation Belt Loss and Energization).

Website:

<http://www.space.noa.gr/rbw13/>

### **2013 Heliophysics Summer School in Boulder, Colorado (USA)**

Start : 2013-07-12 - End : 2013-07-19

Applications are invited for the 2013 Heliophysics Summer School, which will be held in beautiful Boulder, Colorado. We are seeking students and undergraduate level teachers and instructors to join us this coming summer for a unique professional experience. Students and teachers will learn about the exciting science of heliophysics as a broad, coherent discipline that reaches in space from the Earth's troposphere to the depths of the Sun, and in time from the formation of the solar system to the distant future. At the same time, a goal of the Summer School is for the group of instructors to develop materials from Heliophysics that can be applied in their classes.

The Heliophysics Summer School focuses on the physics of space weather events that start at the Sun and influence atmospheres, ionospheres and magnetospheres throughout the solar system. The solar system offers a wide variety of conditions under which the interaction of bodies with a plasma environment can be studied: there are planets with and without large-scale magnetic fields and associated magnetospheres; planetary atmospheres display a variety of thicknesses and compositions; satellites of the giant planets reveal how interactions occur with subsonic and sub-Alfvenic flows whereas the solar wind interacts with supersonic and super-Alfvenic impacts.

Encompassed under a general title of comparative magnetospheres are processes occurring on a range of scales from the solar wind interacting with comets to the interstellar medium interacting with the heliosphere. The school will address not only the physics of all these various environments but will also go into the technologies by which these various environments are being observed. The program is complemented with considerations of the societal impacts of space weather that affects satellites near Earth and elsewhere in the solar system.

The school will be based on lectures, laboratories, and recitations from world experts, and will draw material from the three textbooks Heliophysics I-III, published by Cambridge University Press.

Several teachers along with about 35 students will be selected through a competitive process organized by the UCAR Visiting Scientist Programs. The school lasts for eight days, and each participant receives full travel support for airline tickets, lodging and per diem costs.

Website:

<http://www.vsp.ucar.edu/Heliophysics/>

### **Space weather summer school in Alpbach, Austria**

Start : 2013-07-16 - End : 2013-07-25

The Summer School Alpbach enjoys 36 years of tradition in providing in-depth teaching on different topics of space science & technology, featuring lectures and concentrated working sessions on mission studies in self-organised working groups. 60 young highly qualified European science and engineering students converge annually for stimulating 10 days of work in the Austrian Alps. 4 teams compete to design a space mission judged by a jury of experts. Students learn how to approach the design of a satellite mission and explore new and startling ideas supported by experts. The Summer School 2013 will focus on Space Weather .

The purpose of the Summer School is to foster the practical application of knowledge derived from lectures, to develop organisational and team-work skills and to encourage creativity. Teams will compete to design the best project, judged by an independent jury. The teams themselves are responsible for the selection of the subject of the project and for the team structure and working methods.

Website:

<http://www.summerschoolalpbach.at/>

### **2013 CISM Summer School, in Boulder, Colorado, USA**

Start : 2013-07-22 - End : 2013-08-02

The CISM Summer School is intended to give students a comprehensive immersion in the subject of space weather: what it is, what it does, and what can be done about it. Space weather is many things: beautiful when seen through the eyes of a sun-viewing telescope, fascinating when studied for its alien worlds of magnetic structures and phenomena, awesome when witnessed as a solar eruption or auroral storm, and devastating to the users of services it disrupts. Space weather links the Sun, the Earth, and the space in between in a branching chain of consequences. Weather systems on the Sun can spawn interplanetary storms of colossal size and energy that envelop the whole planet in electrical hurricanes. Such storms attack high-tech, complex, and expensive technological systems that provide much of the infrastructure that allows modern society to function.

Website:

<https://www2.hao.ucar.edu/docs/2013-cism-summer-school>

### **1st SOLARNET Workshop, 3rd EAST/ATST meeting: 'Synergies between ground- and space-based solar research', in Oslo, Norway**

Start : 2013-08-05 - End : 2013-08-08

The goal of this workshop is to foster collaborations between ground and space solar projects. This workshop is expected 1) to provide a forum to discuss the use of current and future observational solar facilities, and how to optimise their scientific returns; 2) to identify the potentially paradigm-shifting observations that will become possible with the next generation ground- and space-based solar telescopes and their advanced instrumentation; 3) to foster collaborations between researchers working at the development of ground- and space-based projects and creation of synergies between research programs at different wavelength bands.

A workshop webpage and more information will follow shortly - the purpose of this pre-announcement is to enable early bookings in your calendar.

### **XIIIth IAGA Scientific Assembly in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico**

Start : 2013-08-16 - End : 2013-08-31

The Local Organising Committee and the Mexico National Committee of IUGG have the great pleasure to welcome you to the 11th Scientific Assembly of the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA) which is held in Mérida Yucatán, Mexico from 26 to 31 August 2013 with the motto: "Living on a Magnetic Planet". Our Magnetic Planet Capricious (Changeable or Unpredictable) Field.

In order to increase the visibility and attractiveness of IAGA to young researchers, to motivate them to play active role within IAGA and to create (and enhance) their awareness of IAGA and sense of belonging to IAGA, the first IAGA Summer School will be organized just prior the Assembly. The summer school will provide overview of the activities carried out within all the IAGA divisions, with subjects from paleomagnetism and magnetic anisotropy through observatories and geomagnetic field modeling to ionospheric and aeronomic research. At least 20 young scientists from all around the world will be invited

based on the nominations from Working Groups and Divisions. Special call and more information will be published before the end of 2012.

Website: <http://iaga2013.org.mx/>

### **Solar Physics and Space Weather Instrumentation V in San Diego, CA (USA)**

Start : 2013-08-25 - End : 2013-08-29

This conference will focus on instrumentation, observatories, space missions, and programs for observations from the Sun to Earth's upper atmosphere and space environment. The aim is to bring together diverse communities working on all elements of solar physics and space weather instrumentation.

Studying solar phenomena and monitoring space weather requires observations using both space- and ground-based instrumentations covering the different regions of the Sun-Earth system, the Sun, interplanetary medium, magnetosphere, ionosphere, and thermosphere. Papers are solicited concerning all instrumentation-supporting solar physics and space weather. This includes, but is not limited to, concepts, designs, fabrication processes, calibration, data trending, information technologies, solar data mining, instrument modeling, and satellite lifetime prediction modeling. We are also interested in all past, current, and future solar space missions and satellite and ground constellations of space weather instrumentation with a strong focus on Space Situational Awareness.

This conference is intended to provide the solar physics community and that of Earth's space environment with a forum for discussing the latest updates on instrumentation, observation techniques, and programs in their respective fields, and for proposing innovative ideas for future Sun-Earth coordinated observations.

Website: <http://spie.org/op423>

### **7th International Workshop on Solar Polarization in Kunming, China**

Start : 2013-09-09 - End : 2013-09-14

We gain information about the universe through analysis of the spectra from celestial objects. However, while the intensity spectrum represents a scalar quantity but electromagnetic radiation occurs in the form of transverse waves, the polarized spectrum provides us with a 4-vector, the Stokes vector. The increased amount of information space opens new windows to the universe, in particular for the exploration of magnetic fields. It is well recognized that the magnetic field is a primary agent responsible for structuring and the source of all variability on intermediate time scales, which manifests itself in all forms of solar and stellar activity.

It is therefore not surprising that every year there are many scientific meetings organized with the objective of studying the role of magnetic fields in cosmic objects. What is largely missing in these meetings is however an in-depth investigation of the fundamental aspects of how magnetic fields can be determined by the means of spectro-polarimetry, our main gateway to cosmic magnetism. The primary aim of our series of Workshops is to address these fundamental aspects, with less emphasis on the morphological and physical properties of cosmic magnetic fields.

Website: <http://spw7.ynao.ac.cn/>

### **2nd UK-Ukraine meeting on Solar Physics and Space Science (UKU SPSS) in Kiev, Ukraine**

Start : 2013-09-16 - End : 2013-09-20

The meeting will cover a broad range of aspects of solar physics, space science and solar-terrestrial relations. We aim to include every side of solar and space research, including observations, theory, and numerical modelling. The main idea behind the meeting is to treat the entire solar-terrestrial domain as one system, rather than each region independently.

The topics to be covered are:

- \* advanced solar observations
- \* waves and flows in the Solar atmosphere
- \* structure and dynamics of solar magnetic fields
- \* connecting analytical theory and modern numerical simulations to observations

- \* new physics in numerical modelling
- \* linking solar interior with heliosphere
- \* particle acceleration in the Sun and heliosphere
- \* non-linear phenomena in space plasmas
- \* physics of magnetosphere and ionosphere

Website:

[http://swat.group.shef.ac.uk/Conferences/Ukraine\\_UK\\_2013/index.html](http://swat.group.shef.ac.uk/Conferences/Ukraine_UK_2013/index.html)

## **Space science training week: data driven modeling and forecasting in Leuven, Belgium**

Start : 2013-09-16 - End : 2013-09-19

This summer school targets to introduce a generation of young researchers (advanced master students, PhDs, and junior postdoctoral researchers) to the diverse aspects of space weather related research. It will introduce theoretical approaches to space weather and its drivers, present modern solar data analysis tools, and cover state-of-the-art solar and space science simulations. Participants will learn about forecasting aspects and their quality control for space weather events, but also experience hands-on training in scientific proposal writing and receive do-and-don't tips for scientific presentations.

The scientific program is enriched by a public evening lecture on the solar influence on our climate, and the lecturers are invariably expert scientists with international standing.

The school is open to a maximum of 40 participants, and can benefit from its embedding within two international research network activities: an Interuniversity Attraction Pole P7/08 CHARM connecting heliospheric to astrophysical communities with 7 partner institutes, and a European FP7 Project eHeroes with 15 different partner institutes. Participation from outside both network activities is strongly encouraged. Within Belgium, the school links up expertise from universities (KU Leuven, ULB, Gent University) to federal research institutes (the Solar-Terrestrial Centre of Excellence, the Royal Observatory of Belgium and the Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy).

Website:

<http://stce.be/SpSTraining/>

## **Helicity Thinkshop on Solar Physics in Beijing, China**

Start : 2013-10-27 - End : 2013-10-31

Magnetic helicity has been intensively studied from observational, theoretical, and many other aspects of solar physics. For this meeting we would like to invite solar physicists who are interested in the observational and theoretical studies of the helicity, to encourage thorough discussions on the relevant hot issues. The 1st Helicity Thinkshop was held successfully in 2009, and now the 2nd one will be held on October 27-31, 2013 in Beijing, China.

Website:

<http://sun.bao.ac.cn/meetings/HT2013/>

## **7th Hinode science meeting in Takayama, Japan**

Start : 2013-11-12 - End : 2013-11-15

Since its launch in Sep-2006, more than 600 refereed papers have been published based on Hinode observations, presenting many new and important findings to the scientific community. However, due to the unexpectedly low levels of solar activity, until now the focus has mainly been on the more quiescent aspects of the solar cycle. With the solar maximum expected this year, through cooperative observations with SDO, IRIS, and ground based observatories, Hinode observations should lead to our understanding of active Sun phenomena, such as solar flares and CMEs, to be greatly improved. Making Hinode-7 an excellent opportunity to discuss solar activity in the current solar cycle and the related science through the use Hinode data, as well as other solar/space weather data. It will also be interesting to use this meeting to broaden our focus to include the solar-stellar connection as a means to deepen our understanding of solar activity.

Momentum is also gaining for Solar-C, which is being developed as an international collaboration between Japan, US and Europe. To further discuss this mission, the Solar-C science meeting will be held on 11-Nov.

Website:

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/hinode-7/>

### **International CAWSES-II Symposium in Nagoya, Japan**

Start : 2013-11-18 - End : 2013-11-22

This International CAWSES-II Symposium hosted by SCOSTEP (Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics) will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the scientific accomplishments of CAWSES-II and look forward to SCOSTEP's future programs at a moment toward the end of its five-year period. The symposium will cover the six major themes of CAWSES-II tasks: 1) What are the solar influences on the Earth's climate?, 2) How will geospace respond to an altered climate?, 3) How does short-term solar variability affect the geospace environment?, 4) What is the geospace response to variable inputs from the lower atmosphere?, 5) Capacity Building, 6) Informatics and eScience. The main functions of CAWSES-II are to help coordinate international activities in observations, modeling, and applications crucial to achieving this understanding, to involve scientists in both developed and developing countries, and to provide educational opportunities for students of all levels. The symposium offers keynotes/lectures that will be interesting for all participants every morning and more specific sessions of presentations in the afternoon. We welcome all those who are involved and/or interested in CAWSES-II to Nagoya in the autumn when we will have the pleasure of being surrounded by beautiful colorful leaves of this season.

Website:

[http://www.cawses.org/CAWSES/leaflet\\_CAWSES-II\\_120229.pdf](http://www.cawses.org/CAWSES/leaflet_CAWSES-II_120229.pdf)

### **European Space Weather Week in Belgium**

Start : 2013-11-18 - End : 2013-11-22

The 10th Edition of the European Space Weather Week will take place on 18-22nd November 2013 in Belgium. The venue will be confirmed early next year, but mark your calendars now for the 10th Anniversary of this growing European event.

The ESWW will again adopt the central aim of bringing together the diverse groups in Europe working on different aspects of Space Weather . This includes but isn't limited to the scientific community, the engineering community, applications developers, service providers and service end users. The meeting organisation will again be coordinated by the Belgian Solar-Terrestrial Centre of Excellence (STCE), ESA and the Space Weather Working Team. The local organisation will be done by the STCE.

Website:

<http://www.stce.be/esww10/>

### **40th COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Moscow, Russia**

Start : 2014-08-02 - End : 2014-08-10

The 40th COSPAR Scientific Assembly will be held in Moscow, Russia from 2 - 10 August 2014. This Assembly is open to all bona fide scientists.

Website:

<http://www.cospas-assembly.org/>