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Results of the first HEMERA Call For Proposals

Wien, Austria - The outcome of the first HEMERA Call For Proposals will be presented during the European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2019. HEMERA is a new Research Infrastructure, which integrates a large starting community in the field of tropospheric and stratospheric balloon-borne research, funded by the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme of the European Union for a 4 year period from 2018 to 2021.

In the first HEMERA Call For Proposals, a total of 39 experiments, to be flown on CNES and SSC balloons, have been proposed from 12 different countries, covering a large variety of science fields. The majority of them (16 proposals) are focused on atmospheric science, including air and light pollution. Experiments regarding other science fields have been also proposed such as astrophysics (9 proposals), magnetosphere of the sun and space whether (6 proposals). Finally, several proposals dealt with technical research and educational experiments (8 proposals). The results of the first HEMERA Call for Proposals considerably reflect the importance of balloon science and the interest among the European scientific community.

After an evaluation process, 21 experiments have been selected for flights at no cost on Zero Pressure (ZPB) and Sounding (SB) balloons during the 2019 and 2020 campaigns. The balloons will be launched from Esrange, in Sweden, from Timmins in Canada as well as Aire sur l'Adour, in France. In this framework, HEMERA makes existing national stratospheric balloon facilities available to a large number of scientific teams and industries in the European Union and associated states. Further information about the HEMERA project can be obtained at any time at display #02/03 (Entrance hall, level 0) during the complete EGU assembly duration.

Philippe Raizonville from CNES in France, the coordinator of the HEMERA project, says: "The first HEMERA Call For Proposals has been a success. After less than one year from the beginning of the programme, the feedback from the users has been very positive. This is a very good starting point to enlarge the community working on balloon based science and technology and promote this infrastructure in the next years."

Pietro Ubertini from IAPS/INAF, in Rome, comments the Call For Proposals results from the Italian point of view: "Italian scientists, and in particular INAF, played a crucial role with a total of 12 proposals out of 39 received. The Italian response is unprecedented and reflects the strong interest for balloon science of a wide Italian community"

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For more information about HEMERA:
https://www.hemera-h2020.eu