#ISUPPORTAIM PRESS KIT

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LINKS:

WEBSITE: www.isupportaim.com
Interactive video featuring Stephen Hawking, Brian May and others: https://video.helloeko.com/AWkW1A

Live stream: www.isupportaim.com/live (Live stream begins on Monday November 14 at 11AM CET and the full press conference will be archived at the same URL).

I SUPPORT AIM Letter (web version): www.isupportaim.com/letter

Asteroid Day website: www.asteroidday.org
Asteroid Impact Mission website: www.esa.int/aim
MfN Berlin: https://www.naturkundemuseum.berlin/en
Côte d'Azur Observatory: https://www.oca.eu/

Video - Asteroid Impact Mission Animation:
http://www.esa.int/spaceinvideos/Videos/2015/04/Asteroid_Impact_Mission

ABOUT THE ASTEROID IMPACT MISSION:

The Asteroid Impact Mission (AIM) is a mission designed to gather all data necessary to validate asteroid deflection: it would be the first attempt to shift the orbit of a Solar System body and represents a ground-breaking test of planetary defence methods. At the same time, it will demonstrate new technologies for future deep-space missions and ultimately contribute to answering fundamental questions related to the solar system formation and our own origins. It should launch in 2020. Learn more on the AIM website.

AIM Mission Photo Gallery:
http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Space_Engineering_Technology/Asteroid_Impact_Mission/Asteroid_Impact_Mission_minigallery

Asteroid Impact and Deflection Assessment (AIDA) Mission:

http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Space_Engineering_Technology/Asteroid_Impact_Mission/Asteroid_Impact_Deflection_Assessment_mission

ABOUT I SUPPORT AIM:

During ESA's ministerial conference in Luzern, December 1-2, 2016, the decision will be made whether or not to fund the Asteroid Impact Mission (AIM), a collaborative effort with the international AIDA mission. To reinforce the importance of the AIM mission within the scientific and space communities, asteroid experts Patrick Michel, Alan Fitzsimmons and Debbie Lewis drafted a letter (below) in support of AIM, which will be

presented Monday November 14, at a press conference at the MfN Berlin and published on the http://isupportaim.com/ website for the public to sign. To date, more than 100 well respected planetary scientists have signed the letter, in addition to policy makers, concerned citizens and prominent astronauts, including Apollo 9 astronaut Rusty Schweickart, B612 co-founder and astronaut Dr. Ed Lu and others.

The day after the ministerial conference in December, European governments will decide which ESA programmes will be funded by their respective budgets. As such, the scientific community and industry felt it essential to voice their concerns and support for AIM to the ministers in charge of space budgets, typically industry, research and/or science.

Press Release: 14 November 2016, Berlin

"I SUPPORT AIM" CAMPAIGN IS LAUNCHED BY THE OBSERVATOIRE DE LA CÔTE D'AZUR AND ASTEROID DAY CO-FOUNDERS - MORE THAN 100 SCIENTISTS SIGN OPEN LETTER TO SUPPORT ASTEROID IMPACT MISSION (AIM)

BERLIN, GERMANY (14 November 2016) – During a press event today at the Museum für Naturkunde (MfN) (Museum of Natural History) in Berlin, a major campaign was launched to support scientific missions designed to increase our knowledge of asteroids and near Earth objects (NEOs), in particular ESA's Asteroid Impact Mission. The campaign, "I Support AIM (www.isupportaim. com) was initiated by the co-founders of Asteroid Day, the global movement to protect the world from dangerous Asteroids, and the Observatoire de la C.te D'Azur, one of the most important research institutions worldwide in the areas of biological and geological evolution and biodiversity.

During the press conference, organizers released an open letter signed by more than 100 small body scientists supporting increased knowledge of Near Earth Objects (NEOs) and space missions necessary to protect Earth from dangerous NEO impacts.

The letter, now open for public signature, is available here: www.isupportaim.com/letter

"More than 100 prominent scientists from around the world have signed a letter in support of AIM because studying NEOs cannot be underappreciated and the AIM mission is core to gaining the knowledge we need to detect and ultimately deflect dangerous asteroids headed towards Earth," said Grig Richters, Co-Founder, Asteroid Day.

NEOs are left over matter from the formation of planets and range in size from a few meters to tens of kilometres. As with Earth, NEOs orbit the Sun and sometimes come dangerously close to Earth's trajectory. AIM will determine whether a kinetic impactor is able to deflect such a small body, when Earth is threatened.

"New NEOs are now being discovered at the rate of some 4 per day", said Alan Harris, Senior Scientist, German Aerospace Center DLR. "We need a coordinated international strategy for near-Earth object impact mitigation!"

Within the larger AIDA international collaboration, AIM will help to assess NEOS by characterizing for the first time, the small moon of a binary asteroid, as highlighted by Stephan Ulamec, Philae lander manager and AIM co-investigator (DLR): “The combined AIM and DART missions, AIDA, will give us the unique possibility to test our capabilities to deflect an asteroid, combined with fascinating science!“

AIM is a new interdisciplinary mission that is set to become humanity’s first mission to a binary asteroid system. It should launch in 2020 and is perfectly design to gather all data necessary to validate a technique called asteroid deflection. AIM will then reach the binary near-Earth asteroid (65803) Didymos in mid-2022, after a 18-month flight. There, it will wait for NASA's DART Spacecraft that will impact the smallest of the two asteroids, in an attempt to deviate its orbit. AIM will able to carry out detailed before-and-after observations of the asteroid’s structure as well as its orbit, fully documenting the consequences of DART’s kinetic impact. This would be the first ever attempt to deflect the orbit of a Solar System body.

“It is ***now*** that we have the knowledge about the surface of comets and asteroids from space missions as Rosetta and Dawn - and based on this experience we are best prepared for a mission on asteroid deflection. “ said Holger Sierks, Principal Investigator Rosetta/OSIRIS, Planets and Comets Department, Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research.

“Simulations of asteroid deflection by impact are only as good as the knowledge we put into them. With AIM and DART, we have the unique opportunity to test our simulations and feed them with new knowledge about the asteroid’s responds on impact”, echoed Kai Wünnemann, Head of Division Impact and Meteorite Research at MfN

AIM will also demonstrate advanced new technologies for use in future planetary missions and also pave the way to new types of deep-space missions using CubeSats for riskier
operations.

Of the NEOs so far discovered, there are more than 1700 asteroids currently considered hazardous. Unlike other natural disasters, this is one we know how to predict and potentially prevent with early discovery. As such, it is crucial to our knowledge and understanding of asteroids to determine whether a kinetic impactor is able to deflect the orbit of such a small body, in case Earth is threatened. This is what AIDA will help us assess.

The press conference was livestreamed in english and in german, and a recording can be found here, with additional photos: http://isupportaim.com/live

Participants in the Press Conference

- Grig Richters (moderator), filmmaker and Asteroid Day co-founder
- Dr. Patrick Michel, AIDA/AIM Principal Investigator, Observatoire C.te d'Azur, CNRS
- Dr. Kai Wünnemann, Head of Division Impact and Meteorite Research at MfN
- Dr. Holger Sierks, Principal Investigator Rosetta/OSIRIS, Planets and Comets Department at Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research
- Dr. Cornelius Schalinski, Deputy Head Business Development, OHB
- Prof. Alan Harris, Senior Scientist, German Aerospace Center DLR
- Dr. Stephan Ulamec, Philae lander manager and AIM co-investigator, DLR
- Prof. Dr. Jürgen Blum, Head of Planet Formation and Small Bodies group, IGeP, TU Braunschweig

ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE:

About the Côte d'Azur Observatory

The Côte d'Azur Observatory (OCA) in Nice, France, is a public research centre for Astronomy and Earth sciences. OCA hosts 3 research laboratories, and among them the Lagrange Laboratory of CNRS (National Centre for Scientific Research), which focuses on research in instrumentation, ground/space-based observations and theoretical/numerical modelling in the fields of planetology, fluid mechanics, plasma and solar physics, and cosmology.

About Asteroid Day

Asteroid Day is a global movement to increase public awareness of potential asteroid collisions and the means to protect Earth. It was co-founded in 2015, by Dr. Brian May, astrophysicist and lead guitarist for the rock band Queen, COO of B612 Danica Remy, Apollo astronaut Rusty Schweickart, and German filmmaker Grig Richters. Asteroid Day is held on 30 June each year to mark Earth's largest asteroid impact in recorded history, the Siberia Tunguska event, which devastated over 2000 square km, the size of any major metropolitan city.

About Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

The Museum für Naturkunde - Leibniz Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity Science is an integrated research museum within the Leibniz Association. It is one of the most

important research institutions worldwide in the areas of biological and geological evolution and biodiversity. It includes research partners in Berlin, Germany and approximately 60 other countries. Over 500,000 visitors per year show that the Museum has become an innovative communication centre that helps shape the scientific and social dialogue about the future of our earth – worldwide.

QUOTES BY PRESS CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS:

Alan Harris, Senior Scientist, German Aerospace Center DLR
"New NEOs are now being discovered at the rate of some 4 per day."
"We need a coordinated international strategy for near-Earth object impact mitigation!"

Stephan Ulamec, Philae lander manager and AIM co-investigator, DLR
„The combined AIM and DART missions, AIDA, will give us the unique possibility to test our capabilities to deflect an asteroid, combined with fascinating science!“

Gisela Pösges, Deputy Head of RiesKraterMuseum, Nördlingen
For us who live in an impact crater and work for the Ries Crater Museum and talk nearly every day about impact cratering processes and the danger from space, the AIDA/AIM mission is an absolutely fantastic chance to get a deeper insight in this very important chapter of science for mankind.

Jurgen Blum Head of Planet Formation and Small Bodies group, IGeP, TU Braunschweig
"Impacts among celestial objects happen every day and we are trying hard in the laboratory and by computer simulations to predict their outcomes. With AIM, we have the great chance to observe a targeted impact from close proximity so that we can for once and forever anchor our models on it."

Kai Wünnemann, Head of Division Impact and Meteorite Research at MfN
Simulations of asteroid deflection by impact are only as good as the knowledge we put into them. With AIM and DART we have the unique opportunity to test our simulations and feed them with new knowledge about the asteroid’s responds on impact.

Holger Sierks Principal Investigator Rosetta/OSIRIS, Planets and Comets Department at Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research
It is *now* that we have the knowledge about the surface of comets and asteroids from space missions as Rosetta and Dawn. Based on this experience we are best prepared for a mission on asteroid deflection.

Patrick Michel, AIDA/AIM Principal Investigator, Observatoire Côte d’Azur, CNRS
« The AIM mission is a small technology demonstration mission and yet, it provides a great way to tell whether some of our theories we have built for decades are correct or not, and offers Europe to address the great challenge of approaching an 150 m-rock, to

participate to an adventure that is both human and technological, for humanity knowledge and future! »

Cornelius Schalinski, Deputy Head Business Development, OHB
"As a satellite manufacturer, together with our European partners, we are looking forward to the opportunity to successfully realize AIM by 2020 as a first technological stepping stone towards Space 4.0 for Deep Space missions. We are proud to be part of the international AIDA programme, which is a key factor of worldwide disaster prevention in helping to protect our Earth from being hit by an asteroid." OHB, Bremen, Germany

I SUPPORT AIM LETTER:

The recently completed Rosetta Mission hailed for both its technical and engineering feats as well as scientific discovery, captured the world's attention. Not only was Rosetta the first-ever successful attempt to land on a comet, it also returned a powerhouse of scientific knowledge about small bodies in our Solar System. ESA woke up the "Sleeping Beauty" while the world watched and cheered.

Now we must go further, with the launch of the European Asteroid Impact Mission (AIM) as part of the international AIDA mission. We want to make sure that the heritage of Rosetta, in terms of technology and expertise, continues - leading to new missions and further innovation. As citizens of our Solar System, we need to expand our body of knowledge of the Universe in which we live.

Of the near-Earth objects (NEOs) so far discovered, there are more than 1700 asteroids currently considered hazardous. Unlike other natural disasters, this is one we know how to predict and potentially prevent with early discovery. As such, it is crucial to our knowledge and understanding of asteroids to determine whether a kinetic impactor is able to deflect the orbit of such a small body, in case Earth is threatened. This is what AIDA will help us assess.
AIM would launch in October 2020 to travel to a binary asteroid system – the paired Didymos asteroids, which will come within 16 million km of Earth in 2022. The 800m-diameter asteroid is orbited by a 160m moon. This smaller body is AIM's focus: the spacecraft will perform high-resolution measurements of the moon to build detailed maps of its surface, sub-surface, and interior structures, the first time this is done on such a small body. If approved, AIM would be Europe's contribution to the larger Asteroid Impact & Deflection Assessment mission: AIDA. Around four months after AIM's arrival, the NASA-led part of AIDA will arrive: the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) probe will crash straight into the asteroid moon.
Rosetta was a bold mission whose spirit we believe must be continued with AIDA and its AIM mission. With AIM, we continue that audacious journey of discovery into the structure of asteroids – expanding our knowledge of the building blocks of planetary systems, and in particular our Solar System. AIM is the ideal test-bed for new technologies and the perfect stepping stone toward more complex deep space missions.

Asteroids are marvels of planetary systems, in particular our Solar System. Like comets, they are left over matter from the formation of planets, rich in minerals and rich in scientific knowledge of the early history of our Solar System. Additionally, these NEOs

could provide an economic source of extraterrestrial materials for continued human exploitation.
Therefore, we, the undersigned signatories, strongly urge governments and policy makers to keep small bodies missions, such as the already launched Hayabusa-2 and Osiris-Rex and the upcoming AIDA/AIM, high on the agenda to add to the body of knowledge begun by Rosetta.

LEAD SIGNERS

Patrick Michel Laboratoire Lagrange, Université Côte d'Azur, Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur, CNRS, France. **Alan Fitzsimmons**, Queen's University Belfast, UK; **Debbie Lewis**, Axiom, UK.

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