

Answer to a question from the community

XMM-Newton Users' Group Meeting XXI

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ESAC, Madrid, Spain

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Concerning the up-coming XMM Users' Group meeting, we would like to ask whether it is possible to make public the conflict-of-interest protocol for the XMM TAC .

Rules applied in AO19 OTAC discussions:



Panel members should not rate a proposal, if they have any doubt that they can rate the proposal unbiased. In particular:

- Panel members should not rate proposals on which they are involved either as Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-Investigator (Co-I), or if they are participating on a competing proposal asking for the same target. Moreover, panel members who have such a conflict of interest should not be present during the discussion and final ranking of these proposals.
- Panel members should not rate proposals (or participate in the discussion of them), which were submitted by PI who comes from the same institute and/or university.
- Panel members should not rate proposals (or participate in the discussion of them), which were submitted by a PI who is a close personal friend, close relative or close co-operator.
- Panel members should only rate proposals (and participate in the discussion of them), which involve scientists from the same institute and/or university (as Co-I), if they are capable of judging this proposal objectively. In the case of Nation-wide Institutes (e.g. INAF in Italy or CNRS in France) same Institute means the same geographical section of that Institute.