

Concepts for Study

Or what are Petre, Bregman, and the
CST really up to?

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Our Perspective

- Are we poor and desperate or
- rich and desperate?
- Near-term Rich (Existing)
 - Chandra
 - XMM
 - Suzaku
 - Swift



Agencies Continue to Spend Money

On Us

- Being Constructed
 - eROSITA
 - GEMS
 - NuStar
 - Astro-H
 - Astrosat
- Being Considered
 - Athena
 - Nicer
 - Loft

So why are we so desperate?

- General Purpose Te
- We want to refresh about once/decade
- We don't get to do
- We thought there v next facility class m 2020 (IXO)
 - two decades after C
- IXO cancelled

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XMM)

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ound

- **What v**
- Athena
- Small-M
- Astro-K



.3 - 1 B\$)

- **What would be a bad future?**
- We and the national agencies agree that HEA science deserves to be an ongoing effort
- (visit and *thank* your congressmen and senators)
- Not useful ways of thinking: what we do is incremental; what's the killer app?

Funding Realities as I see it

- the hungry 800 lb gorilla in the room: JWST
- will eat funding for the next half-dozen years
- can't build something "big" during that time (1 B\$)
- Congress + NASA probably not eager for another big facility class mission from Astrophysics
- technology money should be available
- might be able to get an explorer+ in the next 5 years
- a 1 B\$ class mission might happen at the end of the decade

Winners and Losers

- If we fulfill the terms of the charge, some people will feel left out in the cold
- We are not picking specific missions, but....
- we are selecting concepts (that's the charge)
 - And the technologies to support the concepts
- Selection is under two near-term outcomes
 - Athena is chosen
 - Athena is not chosen
- The CST agreed to not start selecting concepts until after this meeting
- “Town Hall” CST meeting at AAS, 6:30 PM on Tuesday, January 10, 2012

My Biases

- We don't spend enough money on technology
- I will not expand the charge (the charge seems sensible to me)
- We need an ongoing presence of the following in NASA in HEA.
- In the super-secret category..
- The Macallan 18 year (preferred beverage of CST)

