

IXPE Users' Committee Charter

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The Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE) Users Committee (IUC) provides broad-based input from the community of IXPE users to the IXPE Project and NASA Headquarters. Its primary purpose is to ensure that the broad interests of General Observers (GOs), and other scientists who use IXPE data are well served by the IXPE mission. Key areas that the IUC shall review and provide findings regarding include:

- data analysis software, proposal preparation tools, and user support,
- data distribution issues,
- calibration considerations and products,
- planning for announcements, selection, and execution of GO programs,
- balance of funding between GO observing and theory programs,
- dissemination of IXPE science results through meetings and community outreach.

The IUC shall be an important interface between the IXPE user community and the IXPE Project and NASA Headquarters (HQ). The IUC shall assist the IXPE Principal Investigator (PI) in preparing for future NASA Astrophysics Senior Reviews of Operating Missions. The IUC shall report to the IXPE PI at MSFC and the IXPE Program Scientist at NASA HQ.

The IUC shall consist of a Chair and 5 to 10 members. The Chair is appointed by the IXPE PI in concurrence with the IXPE Program Scientist. Members are chosen by the IXPE PI, IXPE Program Scientist, and the IUC Chair in concurrence. The members should represent a wide range of community interests to enable the IUC to provide the project with broad-based input about the needs and priorities of the IXPE user community during the IXPE extended operational mission phase. Members are chosen for their expertise in a broad range of science areas relevant to IXPE as well as for representation across a diversity of institutions and researcher populations. NASA recognizes and supports the benefits of having diverse and inclusive scientific, engineering, and technology communities and fully expects that such values will be reflected in the composition of the IUC. Members will serve for staggered terms of 2 years and may serve no more than two consecutive terms. IXPE Science Team members are eligible for IUC membership, but their terms at the outset (in the first year of IUC activities) will be limited to one year only; subsequently, they may serve two-year terms.

It is anticipated that two IUC meetings will be held each year. The meetings will be virtual, unless in-person or hybrid meetings can be scheduled during scientific conferences. The IUC will set the meeting agenda and will have the ability to request information from the project, community, or any such group as deemed necessary to accomplish its task. Notice of each meeting shall be circulated to the community via email well in advance of the meeting to encourage input from the community. The following individual shall be invited to participate in IUC meetings, but not in drafting of any reports or findings: IXPE PI, Program Scientist,

Deputy PI, Project Scientist, Project Manager, Agenzia Spaziale Italiana (ASI) IXPE PI, ASI IXPE Project Scientist, IXPE Science Operations Center (SOC) Lead, and IXPE General Observer Facility (GOF) Leads from MSFC and GSFC. Minutes of the IUC meetings, as well as presentations, reports, and findings, shall be posted on an IUC page on the MSFC IXPE website.