VIII National conference on planetary science

Bormio, January 21-25, 2008

Scientific Organizing Committee

Mario Di Martino (INAF, Observatory of Torino, Italy),
Armando Blanco (University of Lecce, Italy),
Carlo Blanco (University of Catania, Italy),
Alberto Cellino (INAF, Observatory of Torino, Italy),
Luigi Colangeli (INAF, Observatory of Capodimonte, Italy),
Angioletta Coradini (INAF-IFSI, Roma, Italy),
Marcello Coradini (ESA, Paris, France),
Elisabetta Dotto (INAF, Observatory of Roma, Italy),
Enrico Flamini (ASI, Italy),
Monica Lazzarin (University of Padova, Italy),
Andrea Milani (University of Pisa, Italy),
Gian Gabriele Ori (University of Pescara, Italy),
Gian Paolo Tozzi (INAF, Obesrvatory of Arcetri, Italy),
Giovanni Valsecchi (INAF-IASF, Roma, Italy)

Local Organizing Committee

Mario Di Martino (INAF, Observatory of Torino, Italy),
Carlo Blanco (University of Catania, Italy),
Cesare Barbieri (University of Padova, Italy),
Claudio Casacci (ADA, Italy),
Giovanni De Sanctis (INAF, Observatory of Torino, Italy),
Alessandro Manara (INAF, Observatory of Brera, Italy),
Roberto Somma (Alcatel Alenia Space, Italy)

Sponsorship

SELEX Galileo, Thales Alenia Space, Universita' del Salento, Telespazio, Universita' di Padova - CISAS, Regione Piemonte - Protezione Civile, Banca Popolare di Sondrio

FOREWORD

Italian planetologists and all Italian scientists interested in the field of the planetary sciences meet periodically, about each 18 months, in a general assembly. The first one was held at Bormio in 1996. This book gather the proceedings of the VIII National Conference on Planetary Science held again in Bormio from January 21 to 25, 2008. During this traditional periodic meeting all topics of the researches about our planetary system are discussed and new results presented. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the planetary science and thanks to the wide range of competences among Italian planetologists, planetary researches are discussed from different and complementary points of views of ground observation, space observation and space missions, laboratory experiments, and last but not least theoretical studies.

Italian community has reached, after forty years of glorious tradition, levels of international excellence in various branch of the planetary science, both on the ground of the fundamental research and for what regards to the involvement in large projects of observation and exploration.

The aim of this book, following the previous editions, is to update the overview of the development of these researches in Italy. Of course, due to the high degree of internationalization of the activity of the Italian planetologists, many foreign scientists have contributed to preparation of the papers collected here. We express the wish that this fruitful collaborations will continue in the future, as well as the tradition of the Italian planetary meetings.

Aldo Dell'Oro and Giovanni De Sanctis