XI National Conference on Planetary Science

Bormio, February 4-8, 2013

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FOREWORD

The 11th edition of the Italian National Conference on Planetary Science was held in Bormio (SO) from February 4 to 8, 2013. The large part of the community of Italian scientists interested on planetary science met to take stock of the status of researches in this field. Again the list of presentations testifies the multidisciplinary character of the Planetology.

Space missions have become of great importance as method of investigation in Planetology. This is demonstrated by the fact that about one half of the proceedings published in this volume are devoted to Solar System exploration, and in particular not surprisingly to the exploration of Mars. Several Italian groups are involved at high levels of responsibility in the development, carrying out and scientific exploitation of important space missions or part of them, providing concept and support for single instruments. However, ground observation, laboratory experiments and theoretical modelling do not lose their importance, and many Italian groups have well-established experience in those fields.

Last but not least, an increasing number of Ph.D. students and young researchers attended National Planetary meetings. This is a reason of great hope for the future of the planetological researches in Italy.

Aldo Dell'Oro