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The Athena X-ray Integral Field Unit: instrument status at the beginning of the Preliminary Definition phase

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The X-ray Integral Field Unit (X-IFU) is the X-ray microcalorimeter instrument on board the Advanced Telescope for High-ENERgy Astrophysics (Athena). The X-IFU will provide spatially resolved high-resolution spectroscopy from 0.2 to 12 keV. The instrument has undergone successfully its Preliminary Requirement Review, demonstrating the feasibility of an instrument that will meet the scientific requirements of Athena.

We will present the status of the instrument baseline, including a special focus on the priority developments at the beginning of phase B on the detection chain and on the cryogenic chain.

The X-IFU will be provided by an international consortium led by France, The Netherlands and Italy, with further ESA member state contributions from Belgium, Finland, Germany, Poland, Spain, Czech Republic, Switzerland and two international partners from the United States and Japan.

Less than 5 years of experience since completion of Ph.D

N

Student (Ph.D., M.Sc. or B.Sc.)

N

Primary authors: PAJOT, F. (Institut de Recherche en Astrophysique et Planétologie, Toulouse (CNRS-INSU) France); Dr BARRET, Didier (IRAP/CNRS); Mr LAM TRONG, Thien (CNES); Dr DEN HERDER, Jan-Willem (SRON); PIRO, Luigi (IAPS/INAF); Dr CAPPI, Massimo (INAF/IASF); AND THE X-IFU CONSORTIUM BOARD

Presenter: PAJOT, F. (Institut de Recherche en Astrophysique et Planétologie, Toulouse (CNRS-INSU) France)

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