



Space Weather: the biggest natural risk in the solar system

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Royal Observatory of Belgium





Space Weather

1. What is the cause?

Solar Physics as the driver of Space Weather

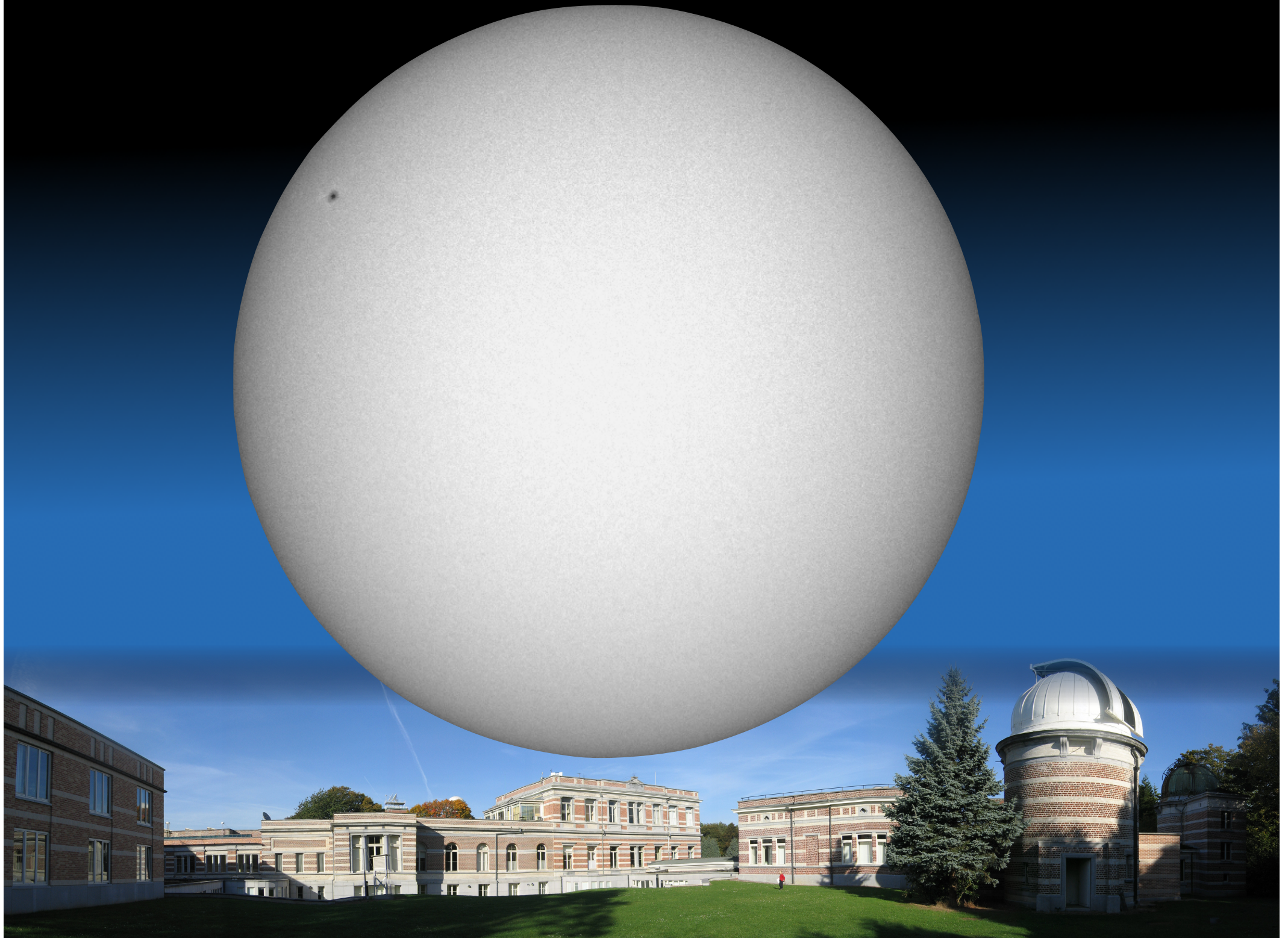
2. What is the effect?

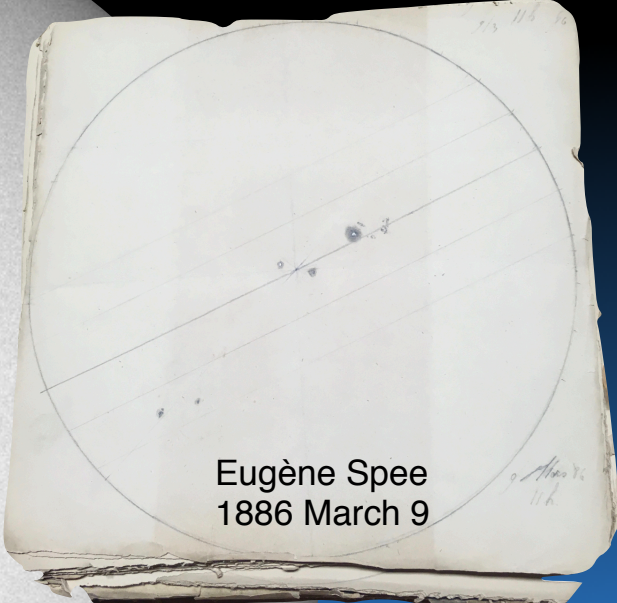
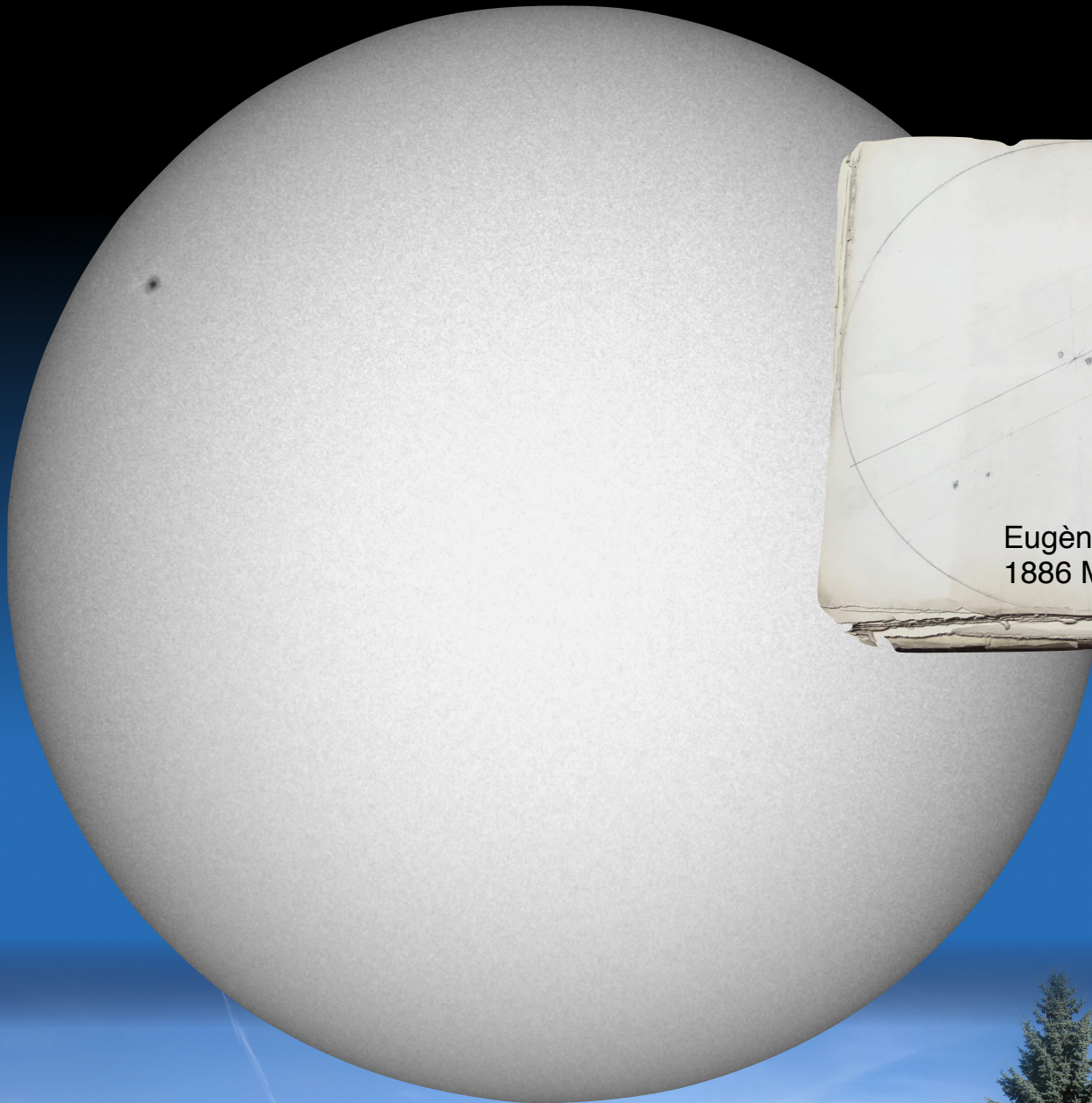
Impact of Space Weather on the Earth

3. What can we do?

Space Weather Services

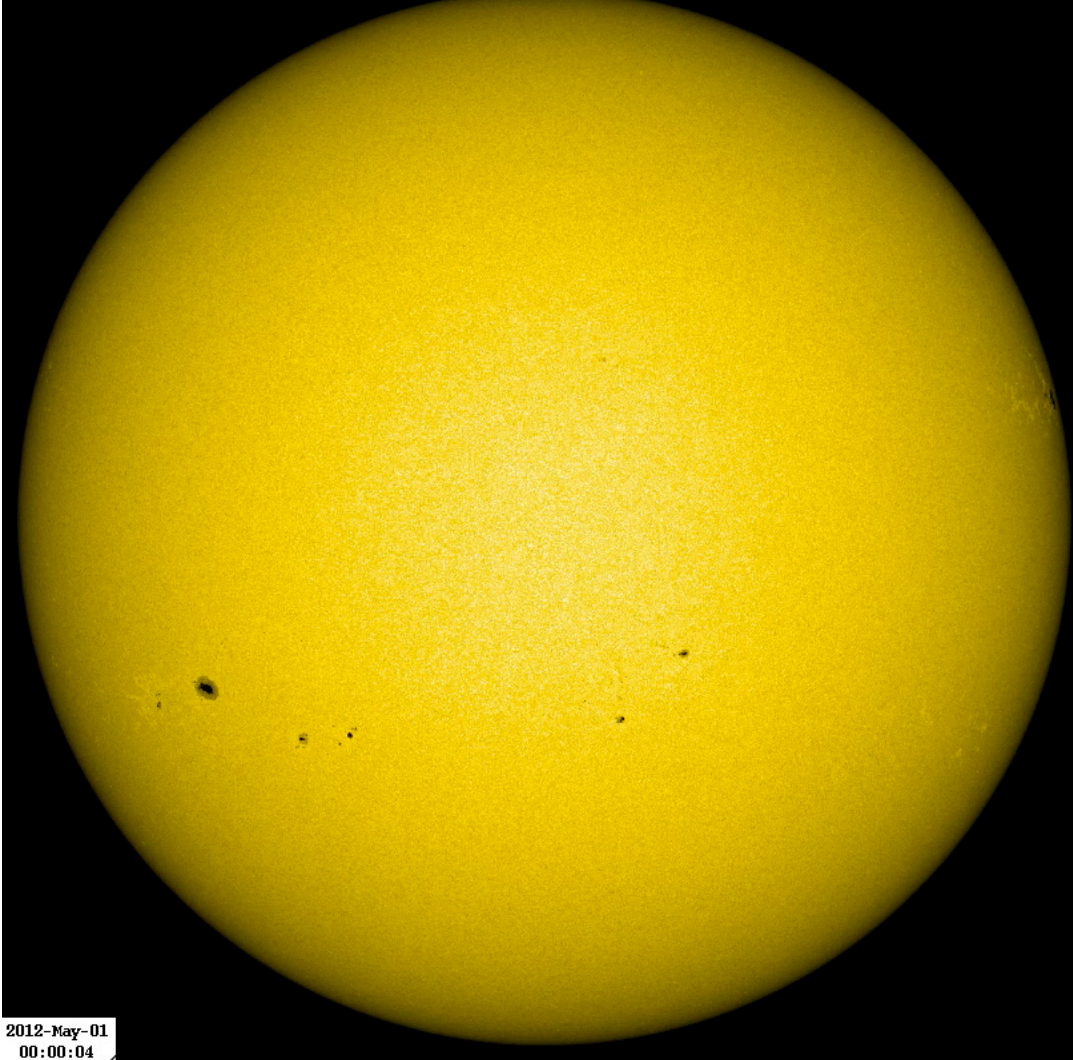




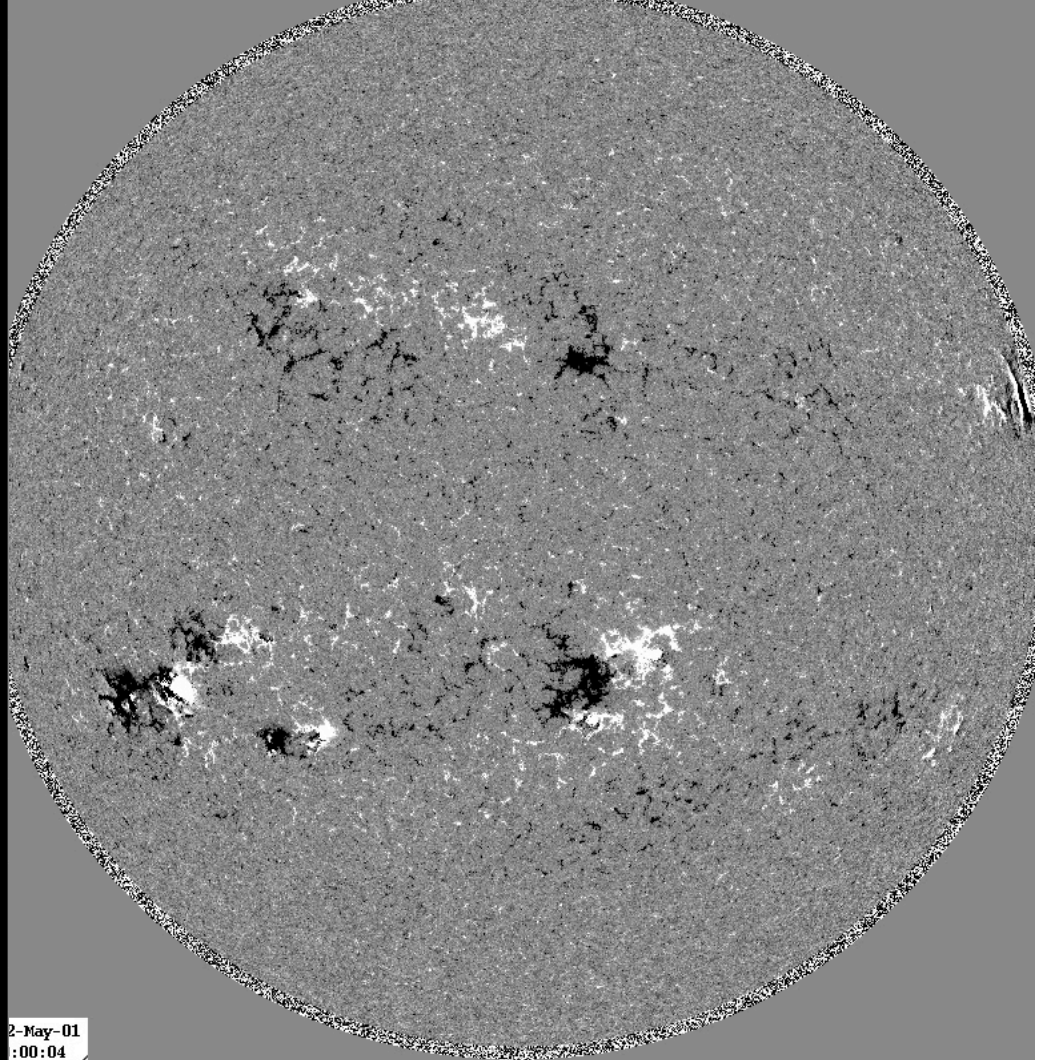


Eugène Spee
1886 March 9

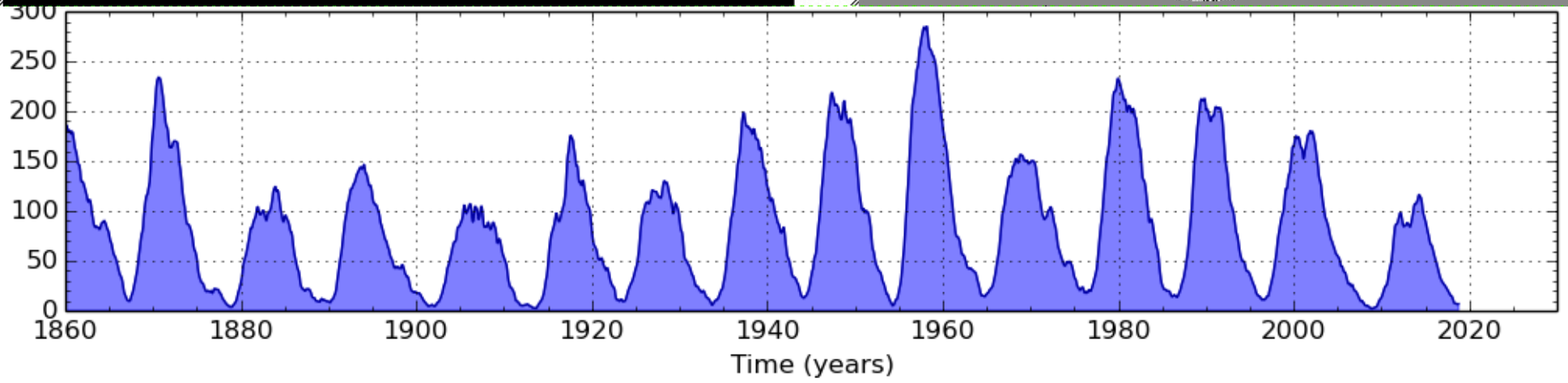




2012-May-01
00:00:04



2-May-01
:00:04

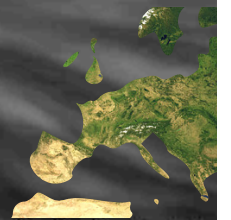


Earth atmosphere: hydrodynamics



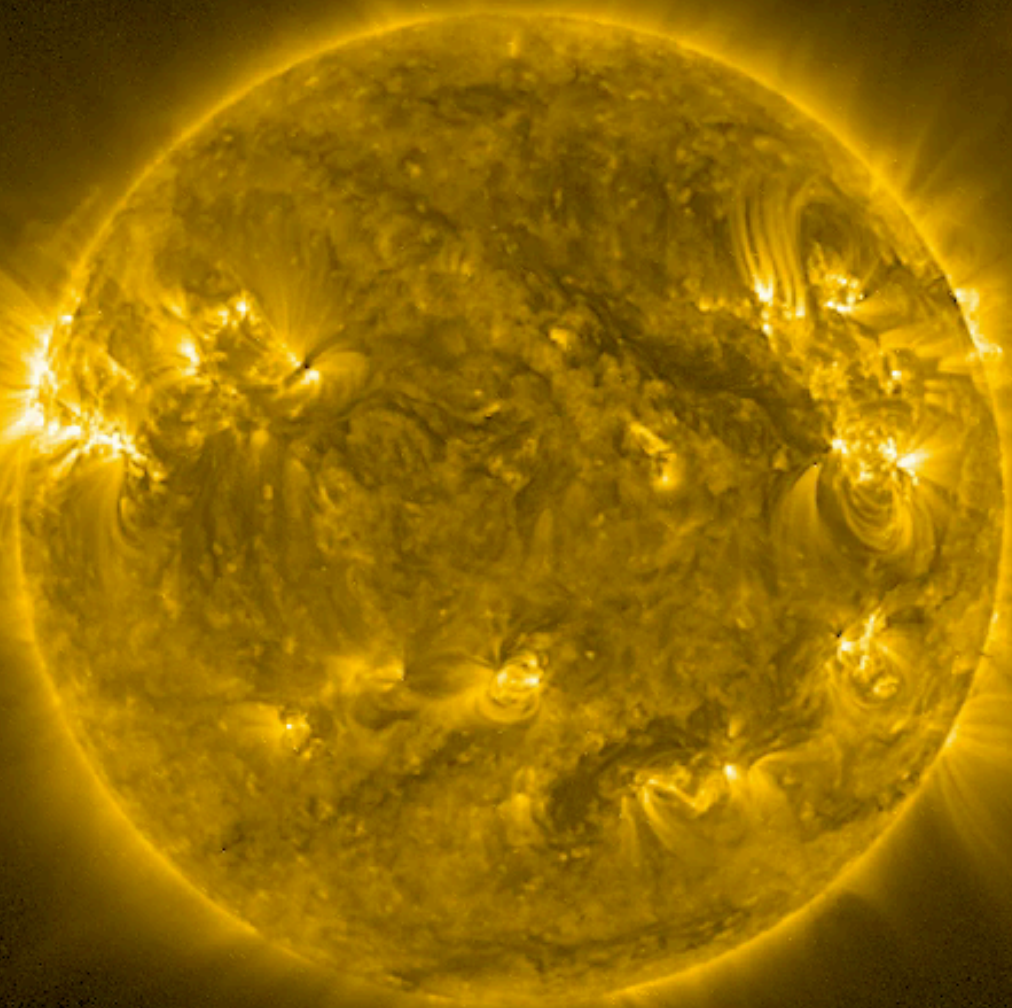
Solar atmosphere: magnetohydrodynamics

Swedish Solar Telescope, H-alpha 2005-10-04



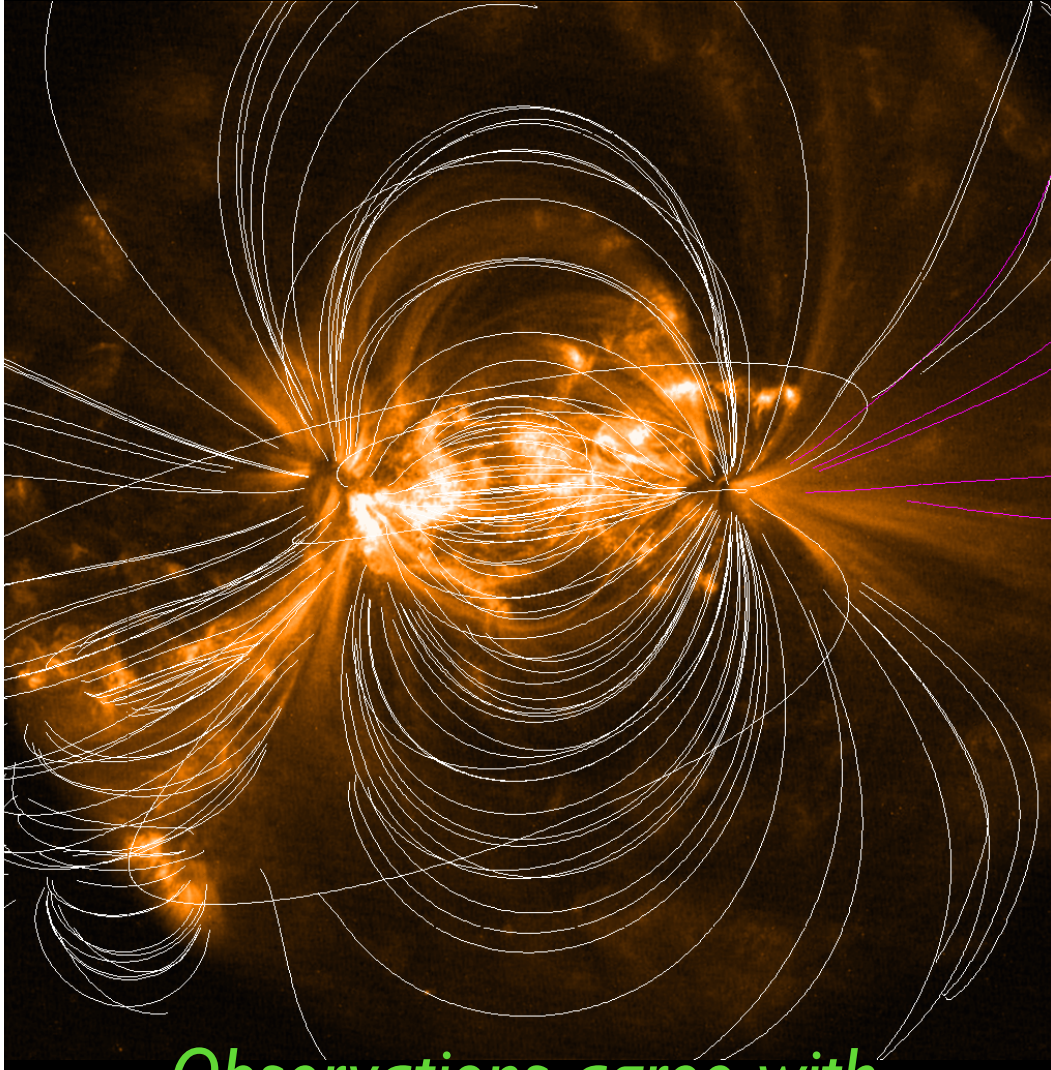


PROBA2

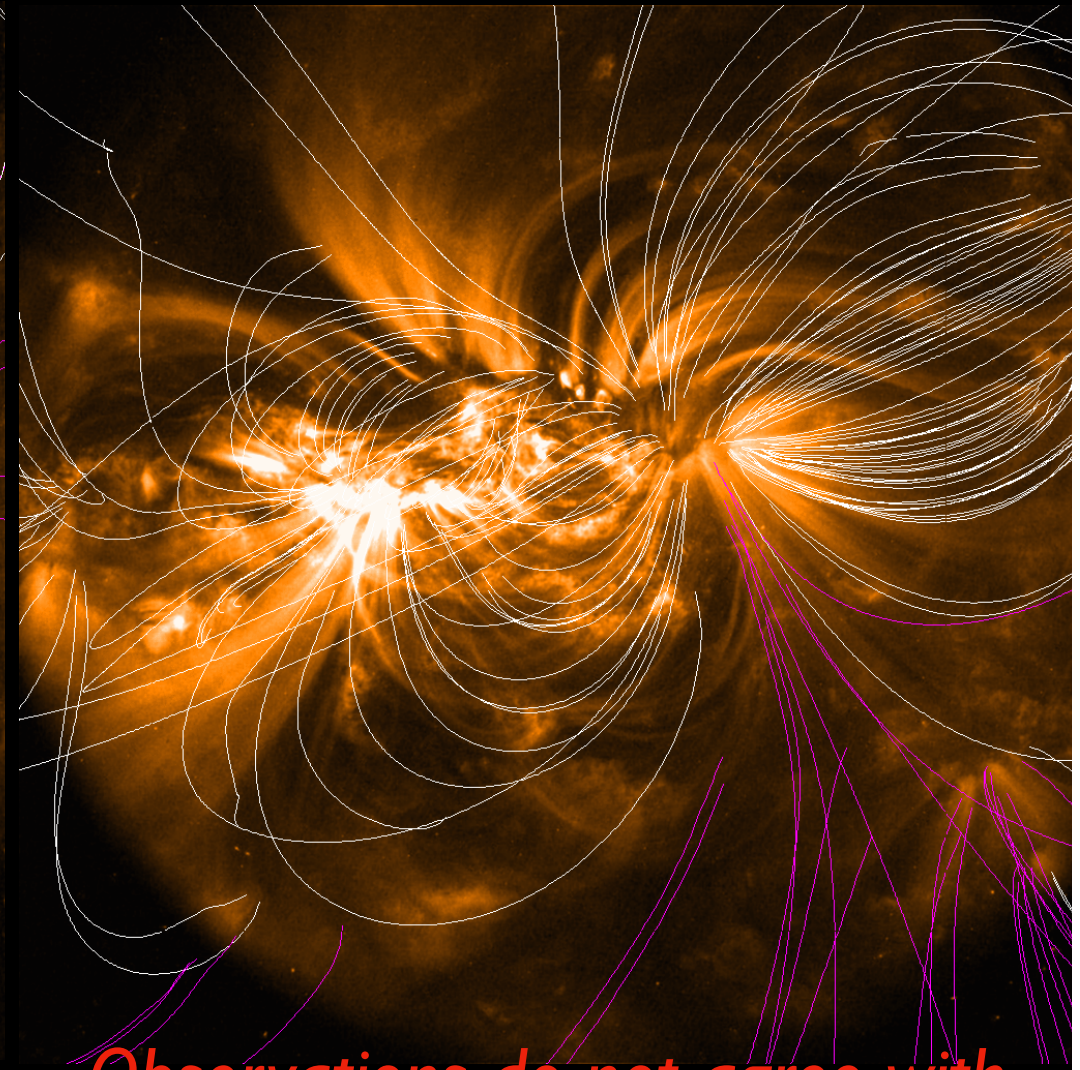


PROBA2/SWAP 174 2011-10-19T18:18:02

The magnetic field can be 'charged' with energy

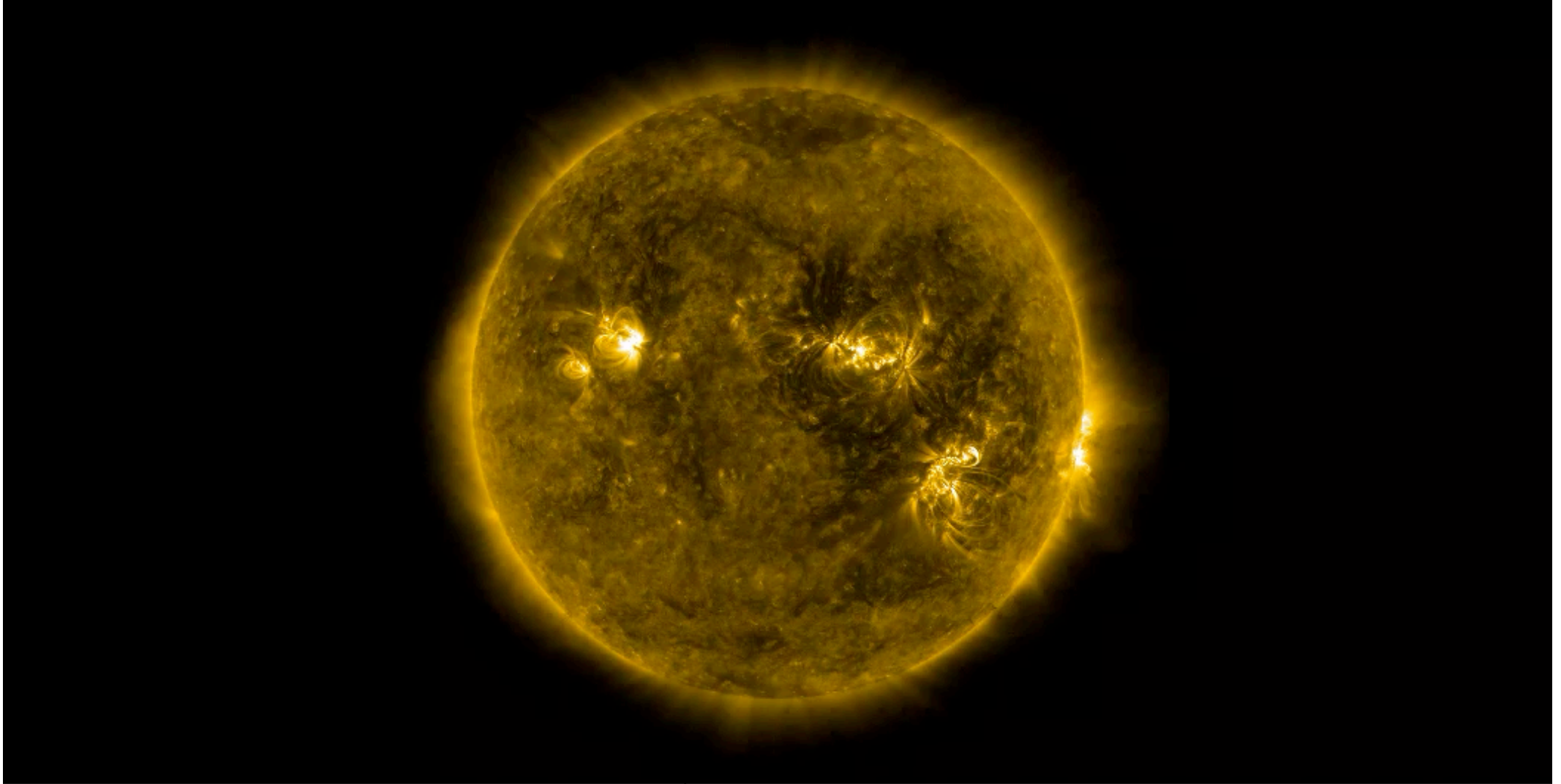


Observations agree with
current-free magnetic field

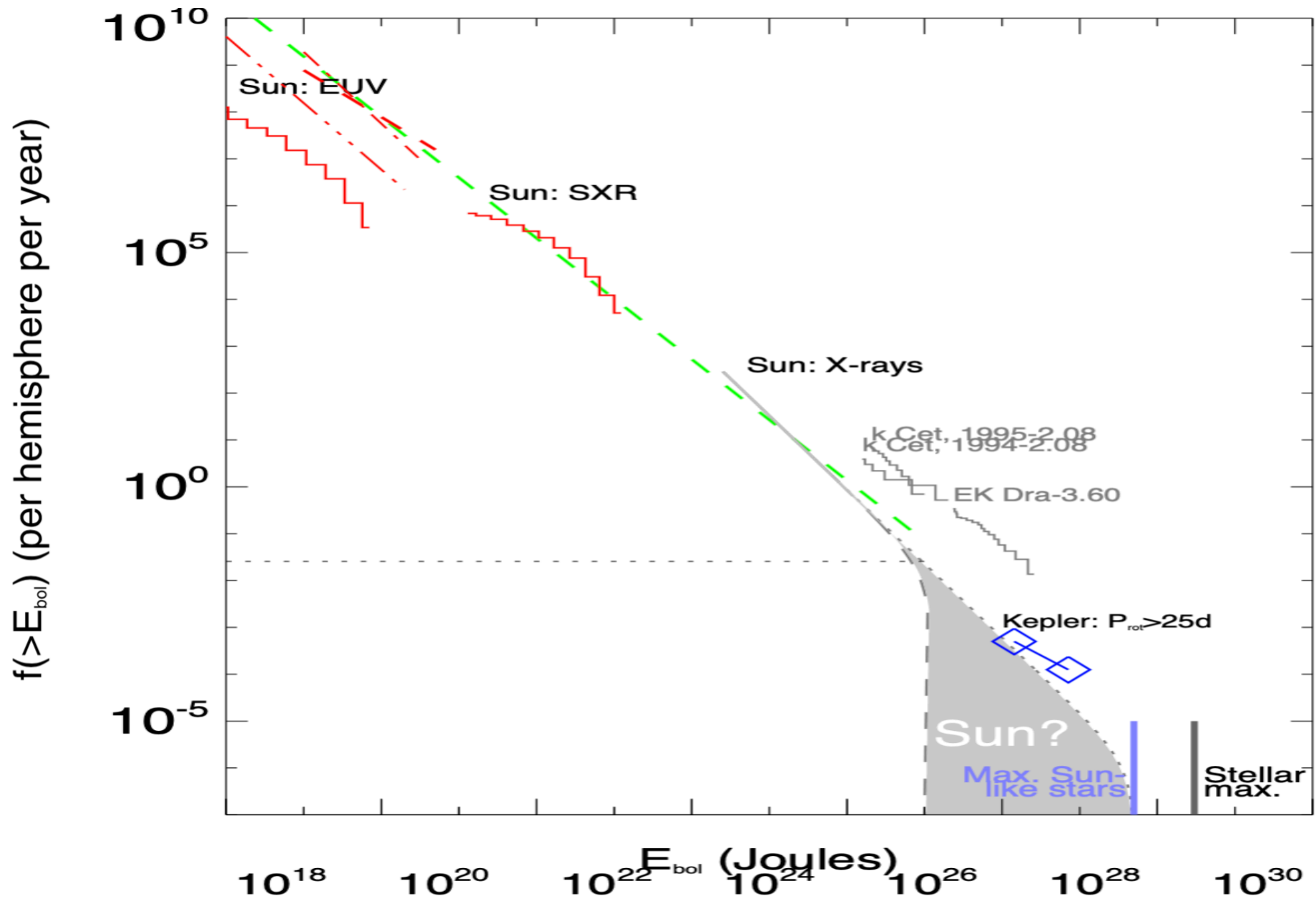


Observations do not agree with
current-free magnetic field

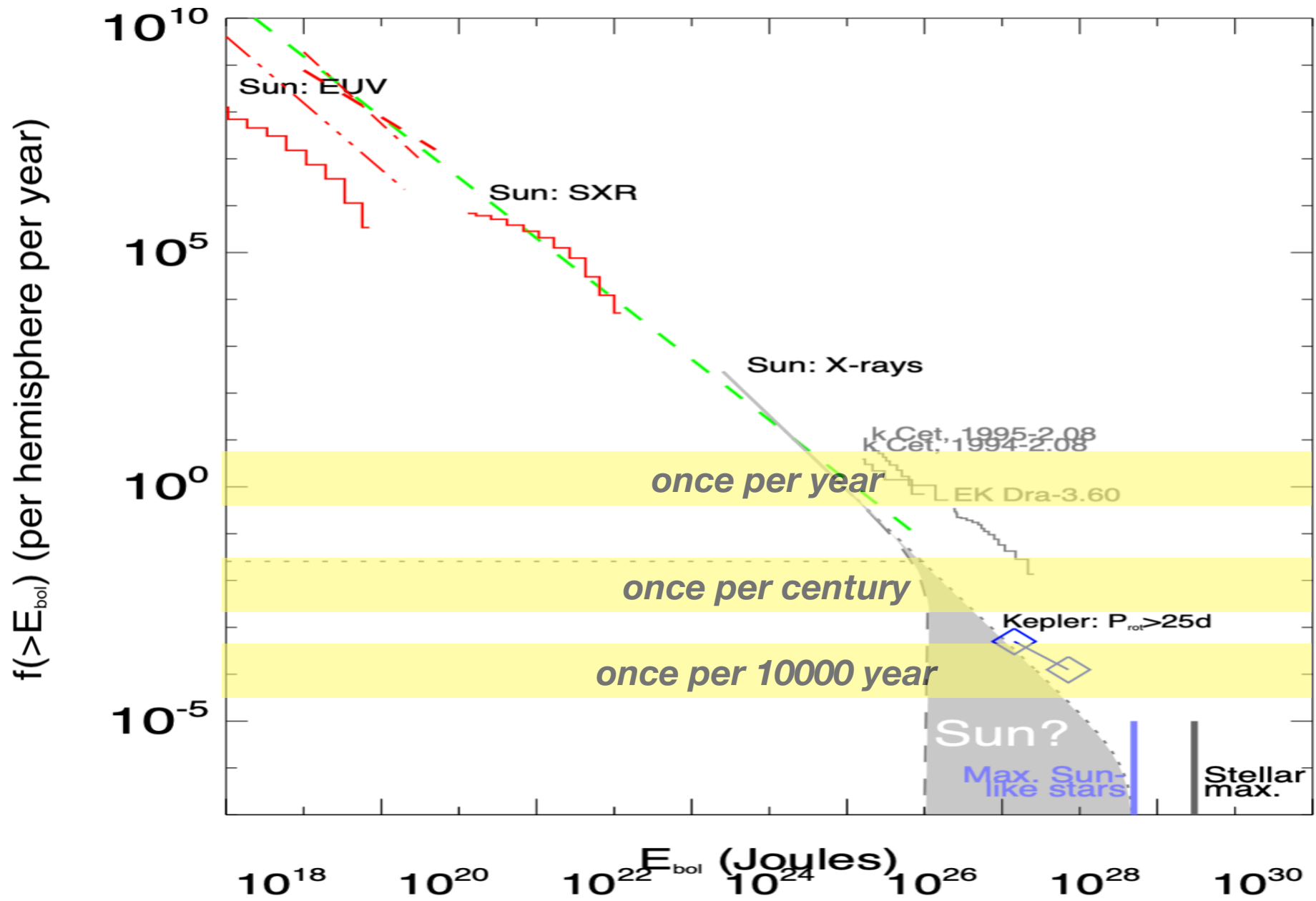
2017 Sept 6, 14th biggest solar flare ever recorded (X9.3)



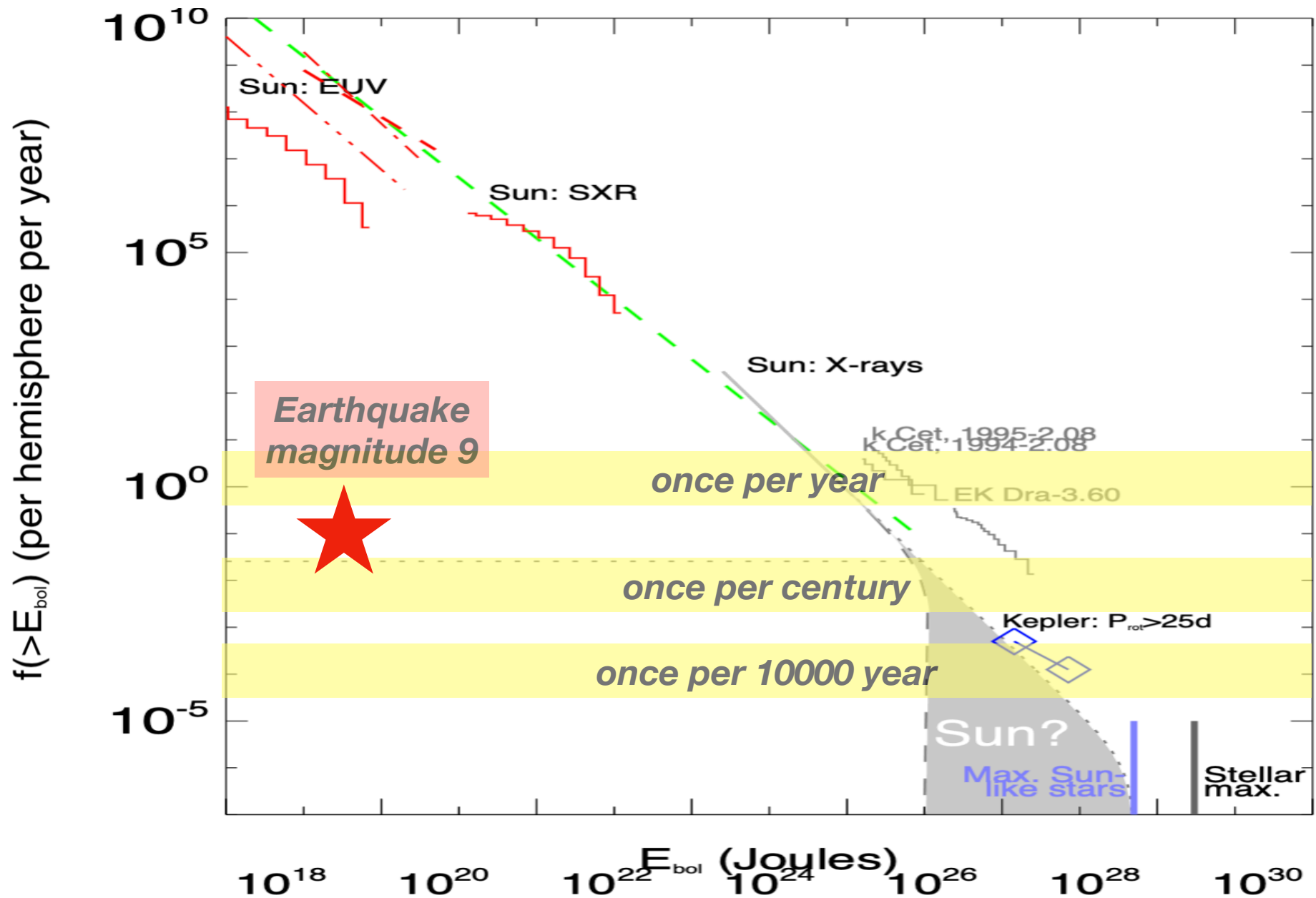
How big can solar flares be?



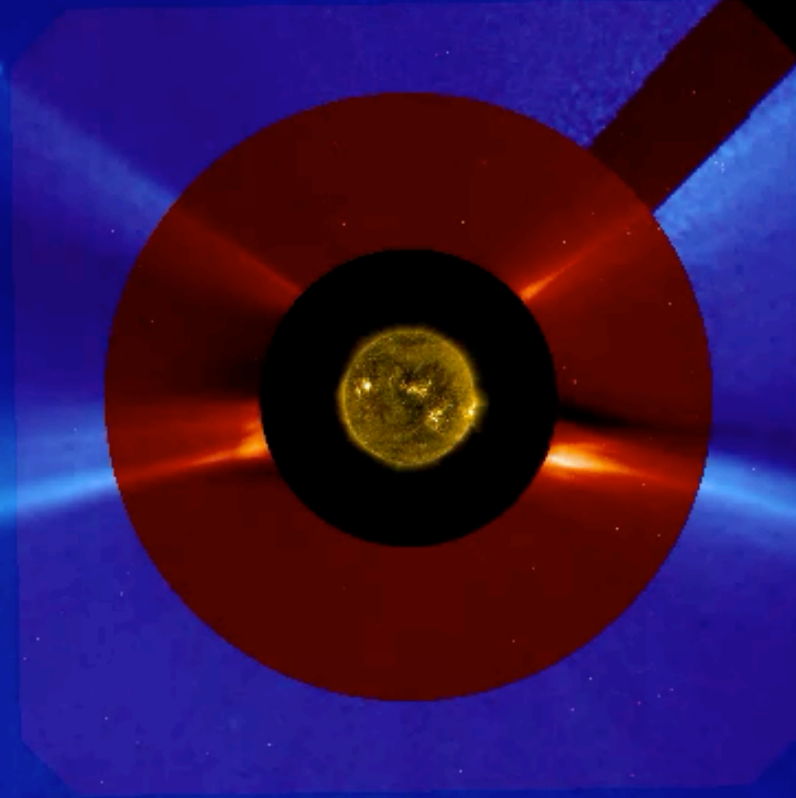
How big can solar flares be?



How big can solar flares be?



coronal mass ejections

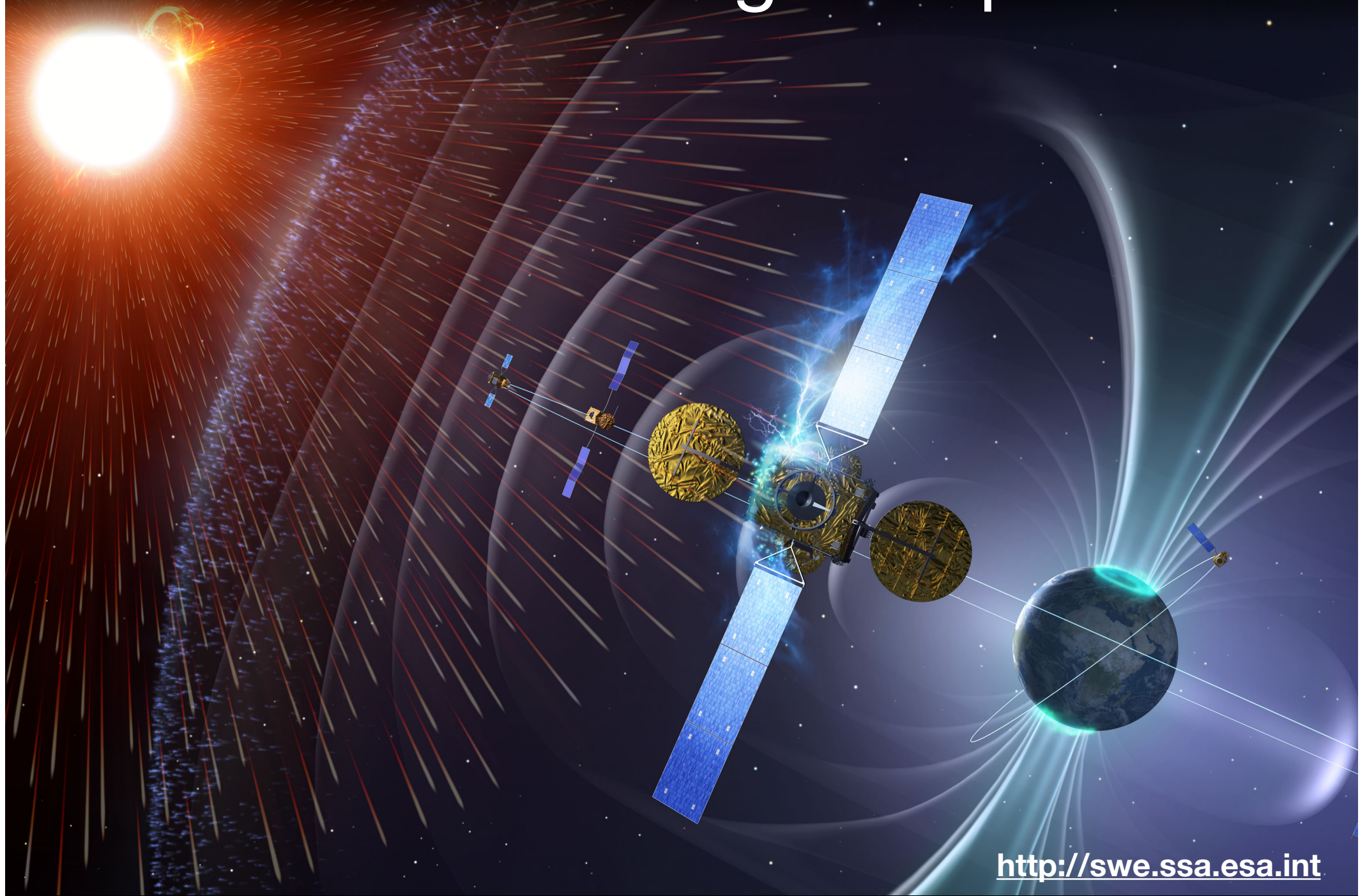


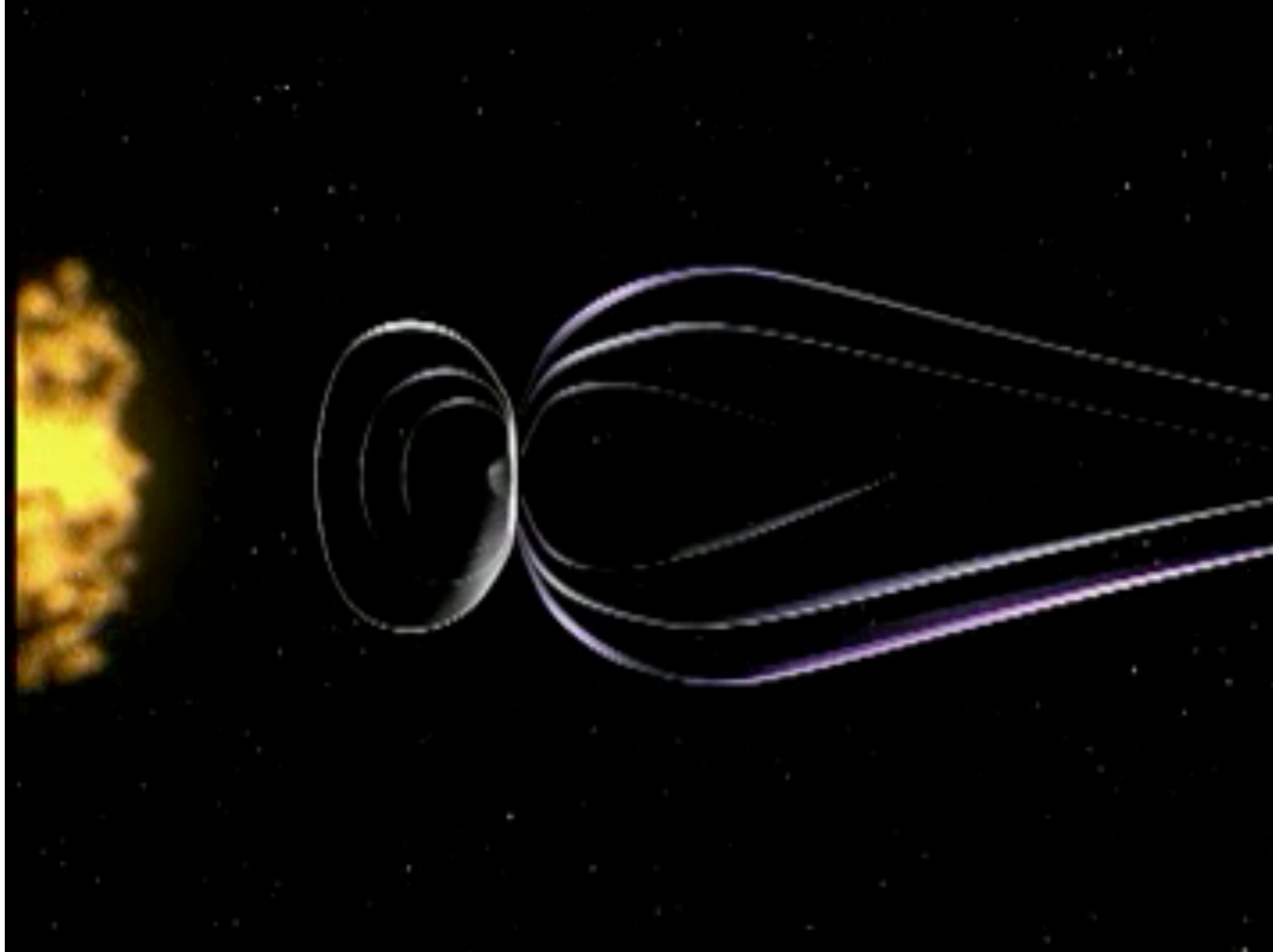
What does it matter to me?



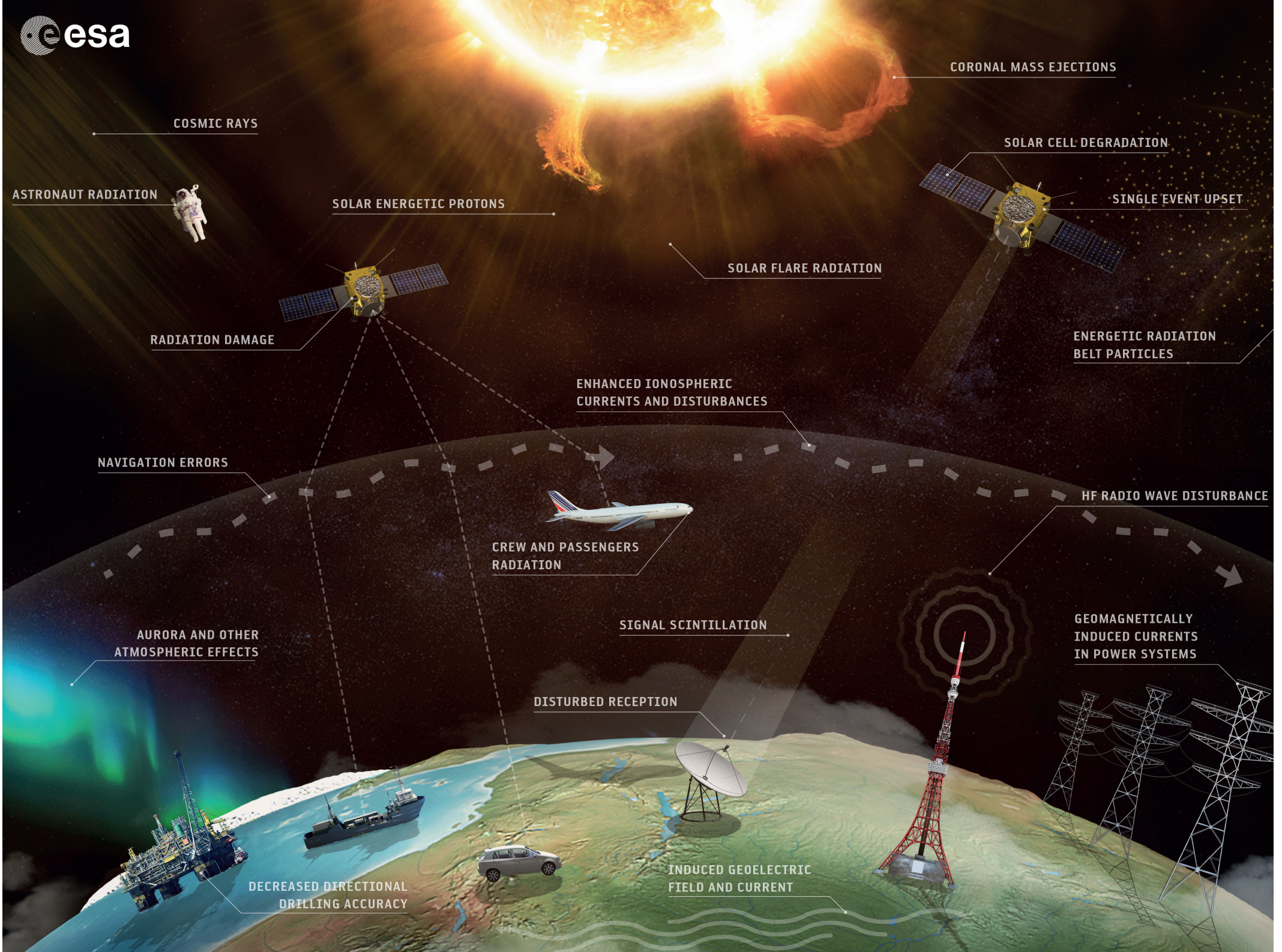
From Fundamental to Applied Research

The Earth Magnetosphere









CORONAL MASS EJECTIONS

SOLAR CELL DEGRADATION

SINGLE EVENT UPSET

SOLAR FLARE RADIATION

ENERGETIC RADIATION BELT PARTICLES

SOLAR ENERGETIC PROTONS

RADIATION DAMAGE

COSMIC RAYS

ASTRONAUT RADIATION

ENHANCED IONOSPHERIC CURRENTS AND DISTURBANCES

NAVIGATION ERRORS

HF RADIO WAVE DISTURBANCE

CREW AND PASSENGERS RADIATION

SIGNAL SCINTILLATION

GEOMAGNETICALLY INDUCED CURRENTS IN POWER SYSTEMS

AURORA AND OTHER ATMOSPHERIC EFFECTS

DISTURBED RECEPTION

INDUCED GEOELECTRIC FIELD AND CURRENT

DECREASED DIRECTIONAL DRILLING ACCURACY

What can we do about it?



What can we do about it?



From Applied Research to Space Weather Services



Royal Belgian Institute
for Space Aeronomy

Royal Meterological
Institute of Belgium



Solar Terrestrial Centre of Excellence



Royal Observatory
of Belgium


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:Issued: 2019 May 05 1230 UTC
:Product: documentation at http://www.sidc.be/products/meu
#-----#
# DAILY BULLETIN ON SOLAR AND GEOMAGNETIC ACTIVITY from the SIDC #
# (RWC Belgium) #
#-----#
SIDC URSIGRAM 90505
SIDC SOLAR BULLETIN 05 May 2019, 1230UT
SIDC FORECAST (valid from 1230UT, 05 May 2019 until 07 May 2019)
SOLAR FLARES : C-class flares expected, (probability >=50%)
GEOMAGNETISM : Active conditions expected (A>=20 or K=4)
SOLAR PROTONS : Quiet
PREDICTIONS FOR 05 May 2019 10CM FLUX: 068 / AP: 007
PREDICTIONS FOR 06 May 2019 10CM FLUX: 070 / AP: 013
PREDICTIONS FOR 07 May 2019 10CM FLUX: 072 / AP: 011
COMMENT: NOAA AR 2740 is the only visible active region on the solar disc.
It produced a C2.1 flare peaking at 22:43 UT on May 4 and several narrow
(not Earth directed) CMEs. More C-class flares can be expected

No Earth directed CMEs in past 24 h. Solar protons have remained at
background levels over the past 24 hours.

The solar wind speed is at 440 km/s with interplanetary magnetic field
magnitude of 4 nT. Geomagnetic conditions have been mostly unsettled with
an active period detected at Dourbes (k = 4 between 15:00 UT and 17:00 UT
on May 4), due to several hours of negative Bz. The solar wind from an
equatorial negative polarity coronal hole will affect the Earth on May 6-7.
Active conditions can be expected then.

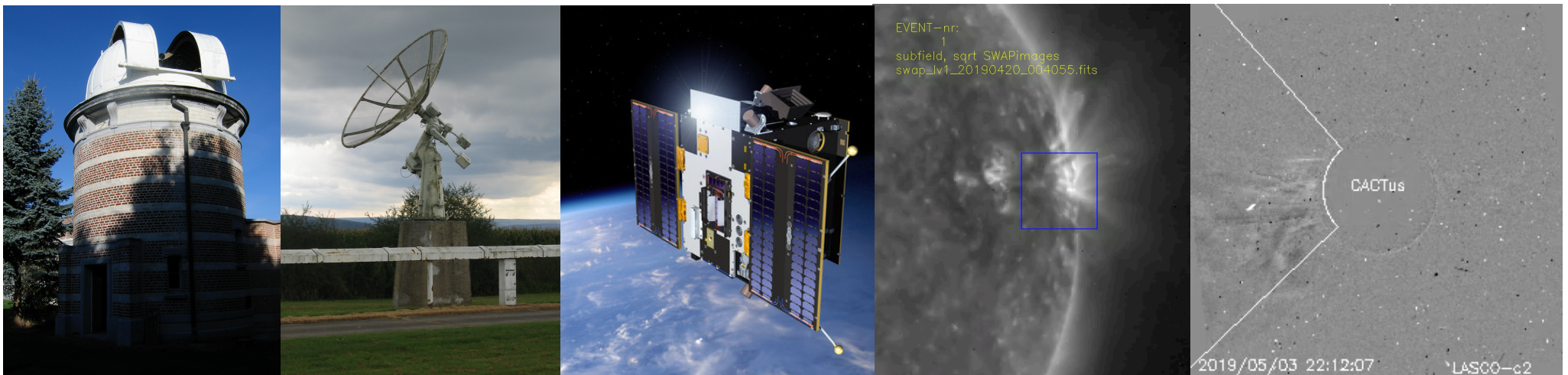
TODAY'S ESTIMATED ISN : 013, BASED ON 16 STATIONS.

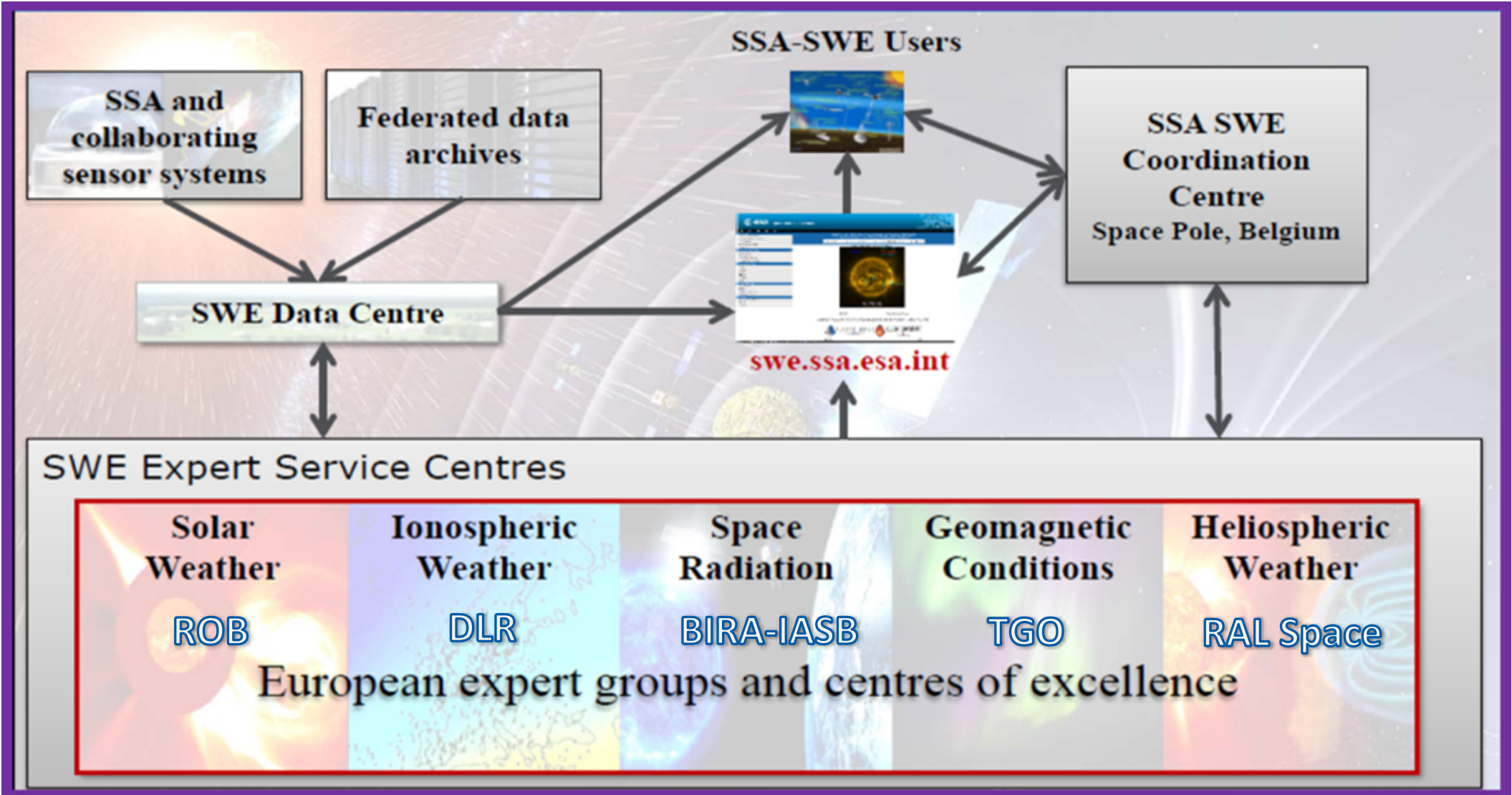
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ISES
International Space
Environment Service

- daily space weather forecast
- weekly review of activity



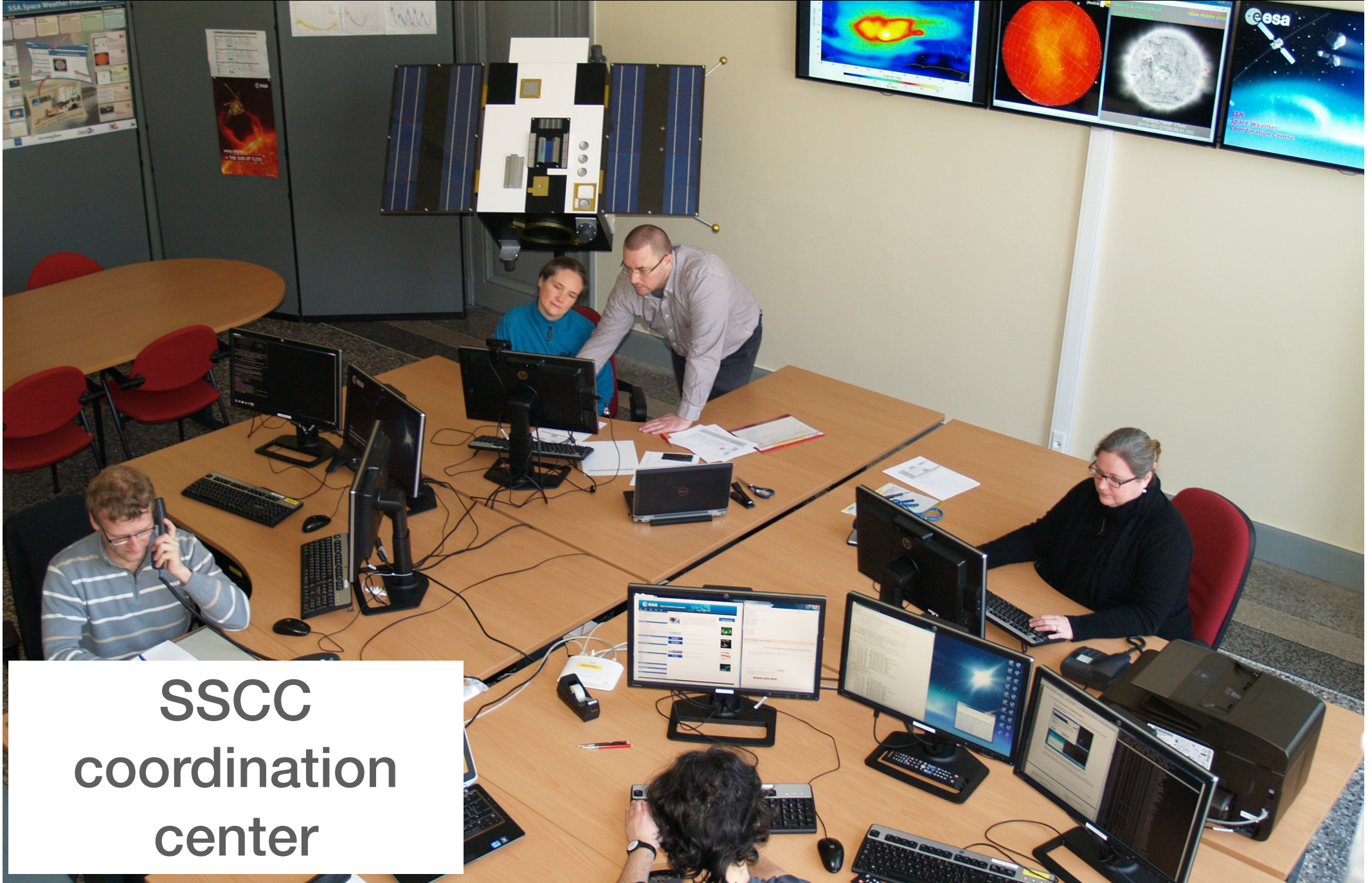




space situational awareness

Coordinate : 1357098
Longitude : 1709885
Latitude (deg) : 4343587
Longitude (deg) : 270.88967
Altitude (m) : 112.08067
Position
European Space Agency

ESA SSA SWE NEO SST



SSCC
coordination
center

Tailored Space Weather bulletins



2014 Venus express aerobreaking manœuvre

== Space Weather bulletin for Venus Express aerobraking operations ==

Bulletin #1
prepared by SSCC and SIDC forecaster
on May 19, 2014 at 14:10 UTC.

Valid until May 21, 2014 at 14:10 UTC.

=== Past 24 hours (Earth viewpoint) ===

Solar flare activity: no C, M or X flares
10-MEV proton flux: < 0.2 pfu
F10.7 index: 128 sfu at Earth

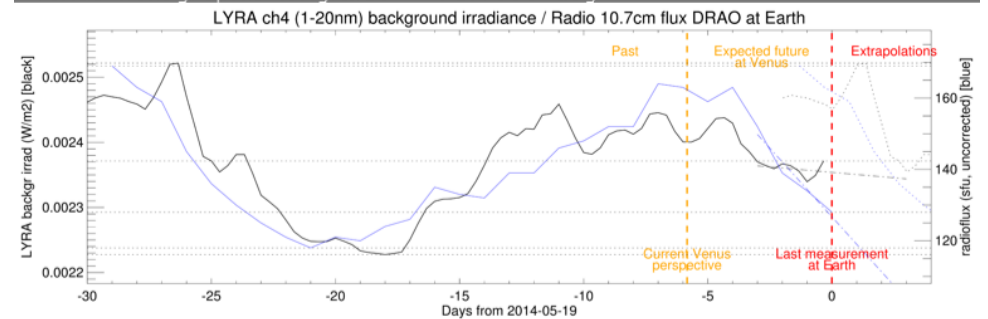
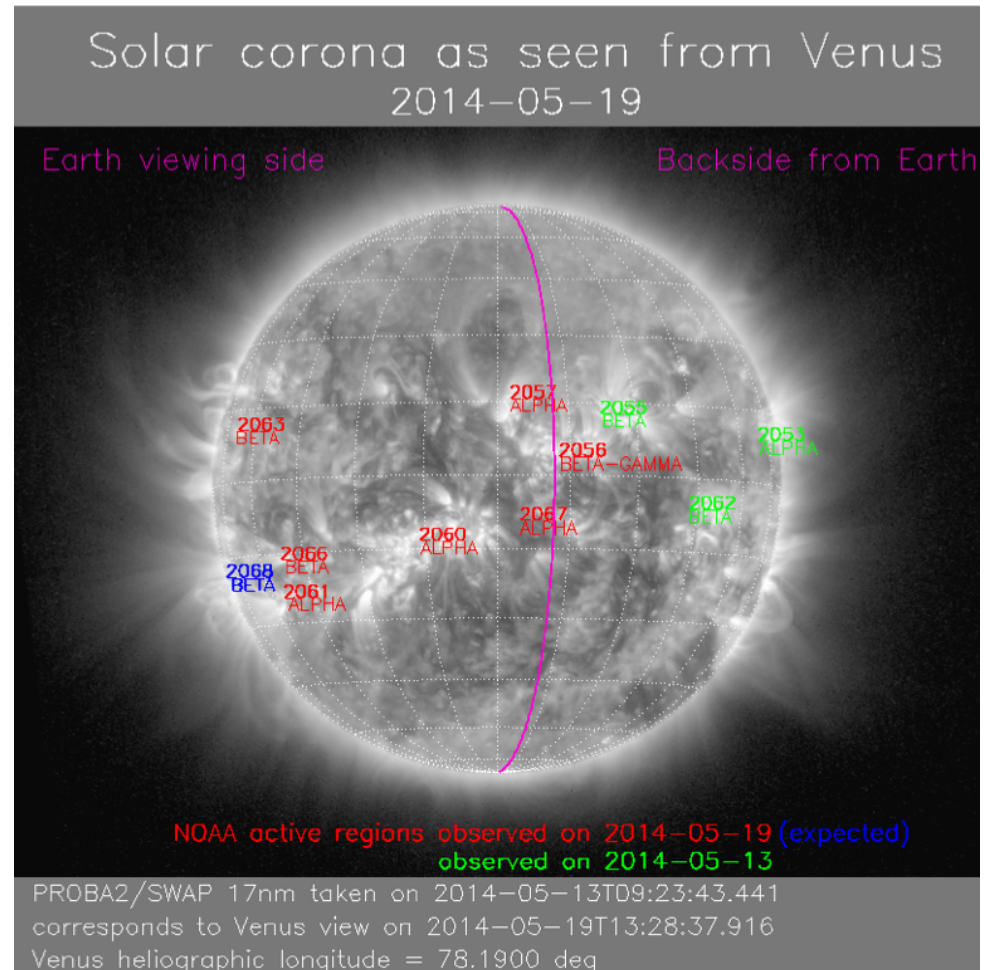
=== Next 48 hours (Earth viewpoint) ===

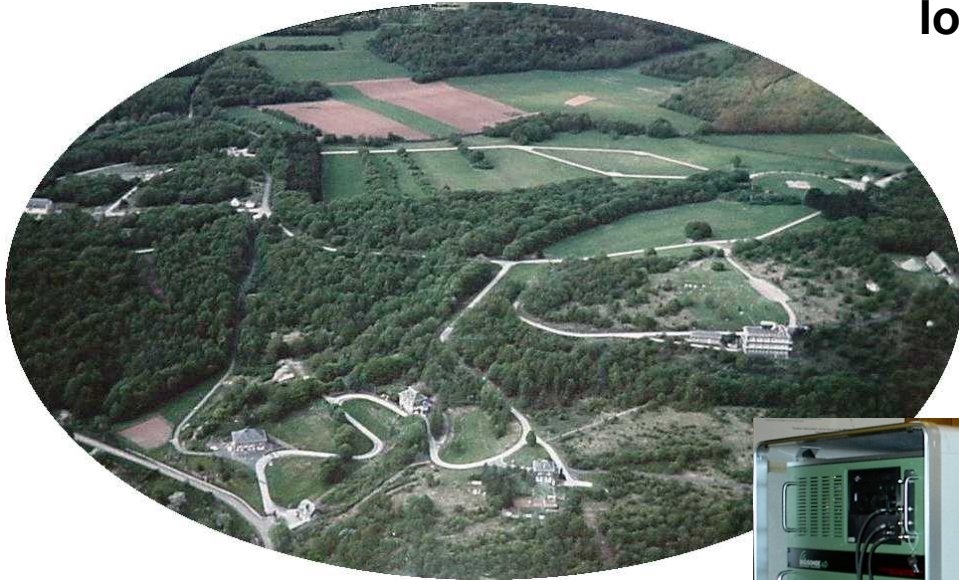
All quiet: no
Solar flares: quiet (less than 50 % chance of a C flare)
Solar protons: quiet

=== Comment ===

There were no C flares nor CMEs during the past 24 hours. In the next 48 hours, quiet conditions (without C flares) are likely. There is a slight chance for C flares

NOAA active regions 2056 and 2066.



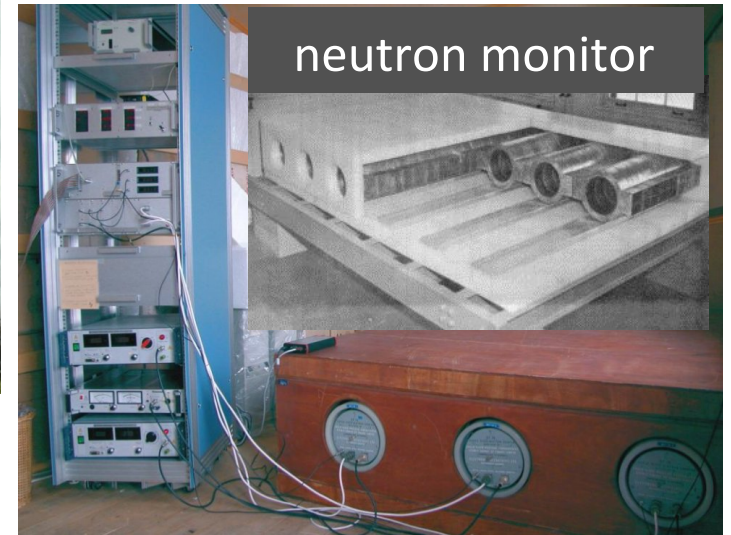


Ionospheric Observatory

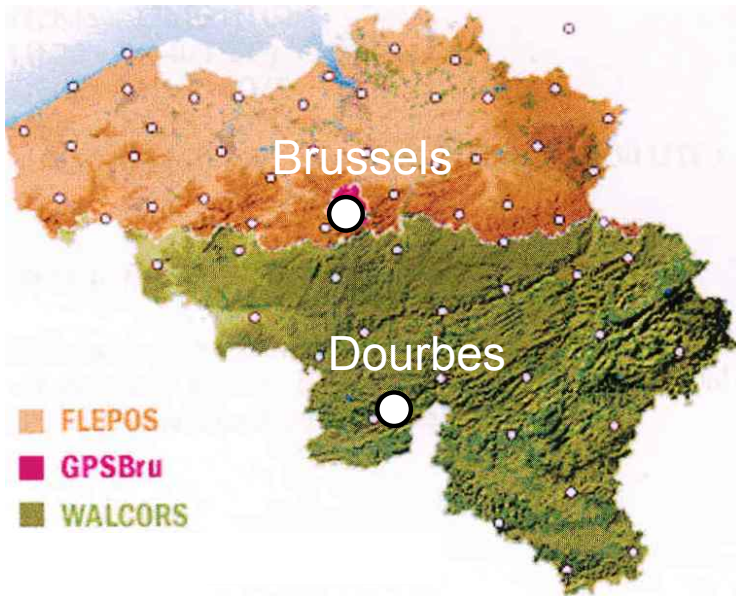


digital sounder

Cosmic Rays Observatory



neutron monitor



Geomagnetic Observatory



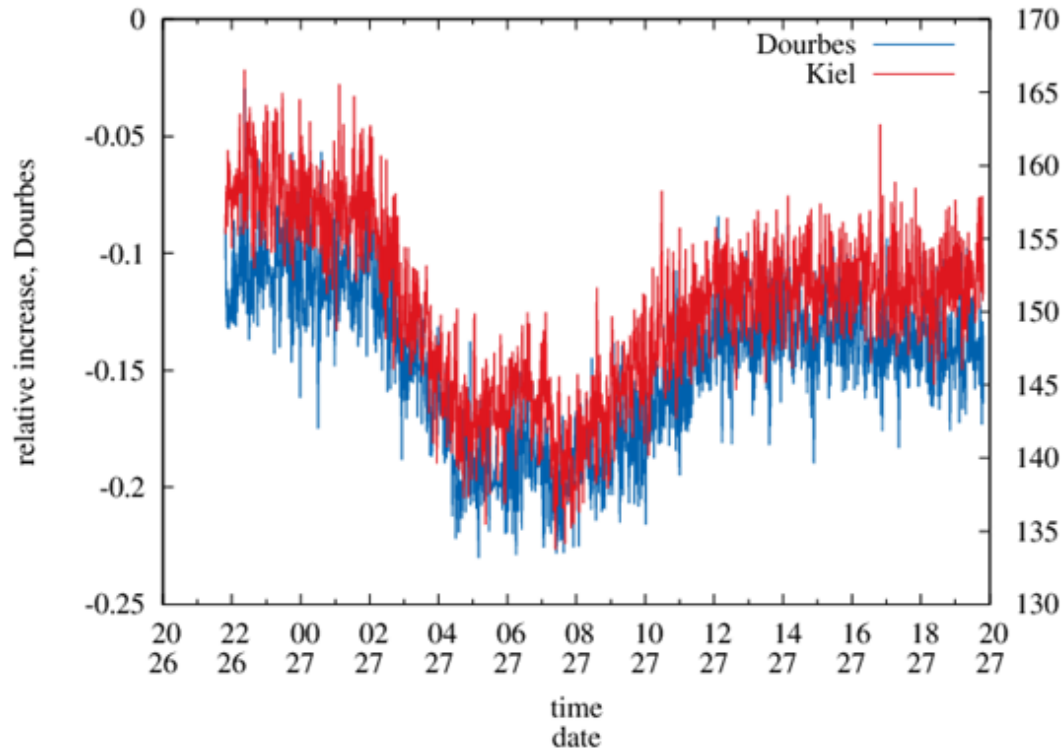
magnetic variometer

Cosmic rays monitoring

Major events detected by neutron monitors

Forbush Decrease (FD)

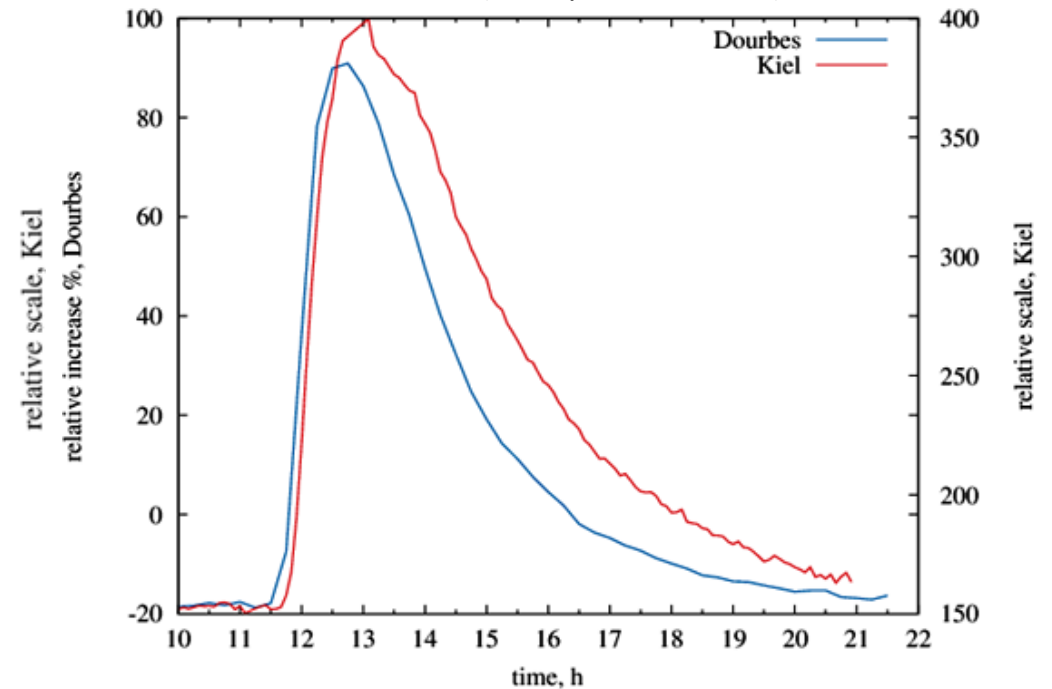
FD No 46: 26 - 27 July 2004



After a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME), the resulting magnetic field suppresses the intensity of the galactic cosmic rays which is seen as a reduced intensity continuing for several days (Forbush Decrease).

Ground Level Enhancement (GLE)

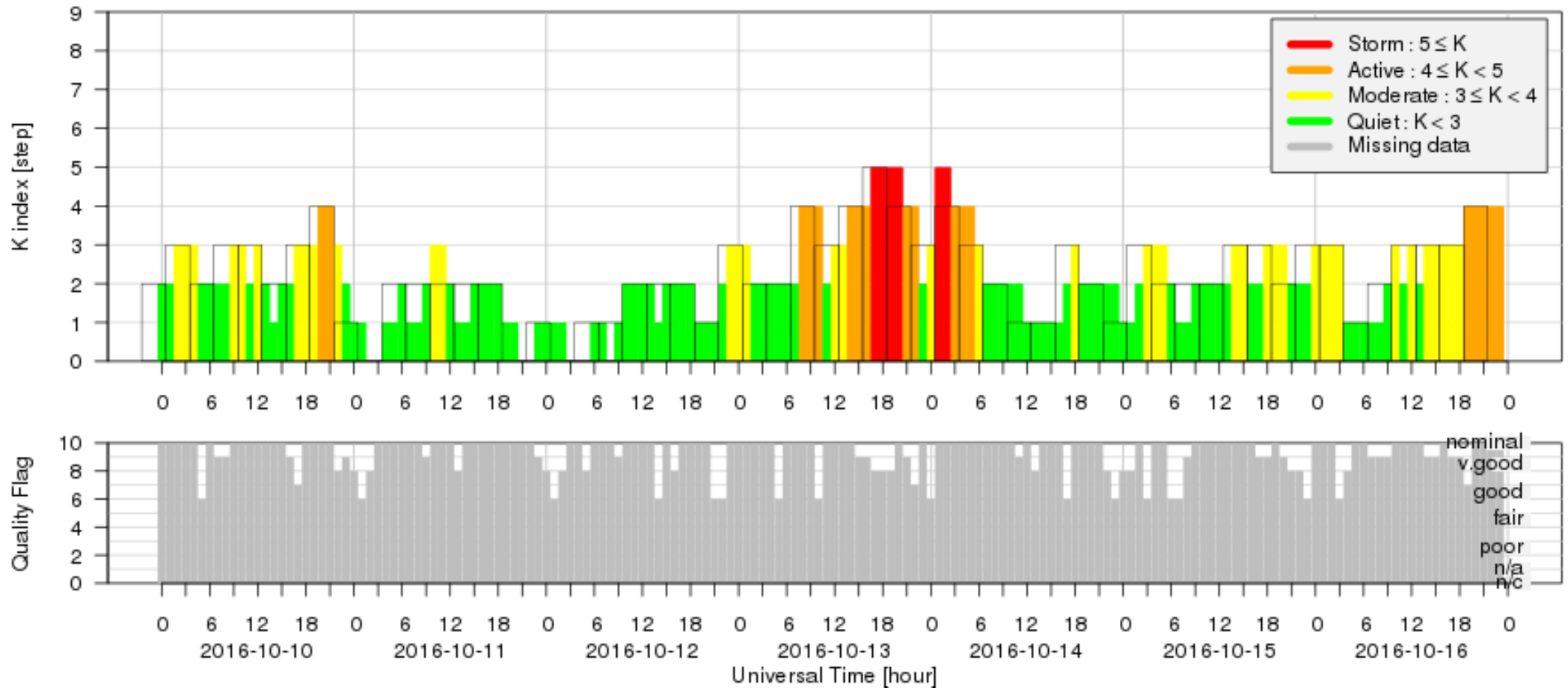
GLE 42 (29 September 1989)



Ground Level Enhancement (GLE) is the transient increase of intensity of the solar cosmic rays, a direct evidence of an interplanetary anomaly that reaches the Earth. Approximately 10-15 times per decade, the Sun emits particles of sufficient energy and intensity to raise radiation levels on Earth's surface.

Local magnetic field monitoring

Local K index at Dourbes (50.1 °N, 4.6 °E)
(ground-based measurements)



geomagnetic storm

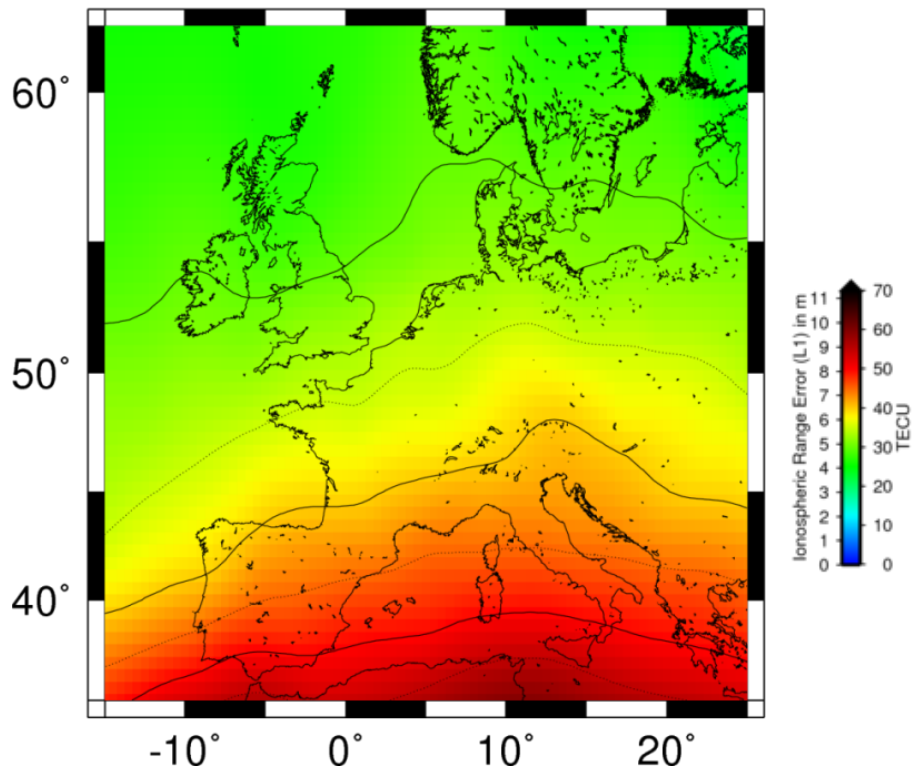
Ionospheric mapping from GNSS

Near real-time ROB-TEC maps since 2012:

- vTEC maps over Europe + Variability
www.gnss.be
- ASCII files (IONEX format)
<ftp://gnss.oma.be>

Sampling rate : 15 min.

Latency : ~3 minutes

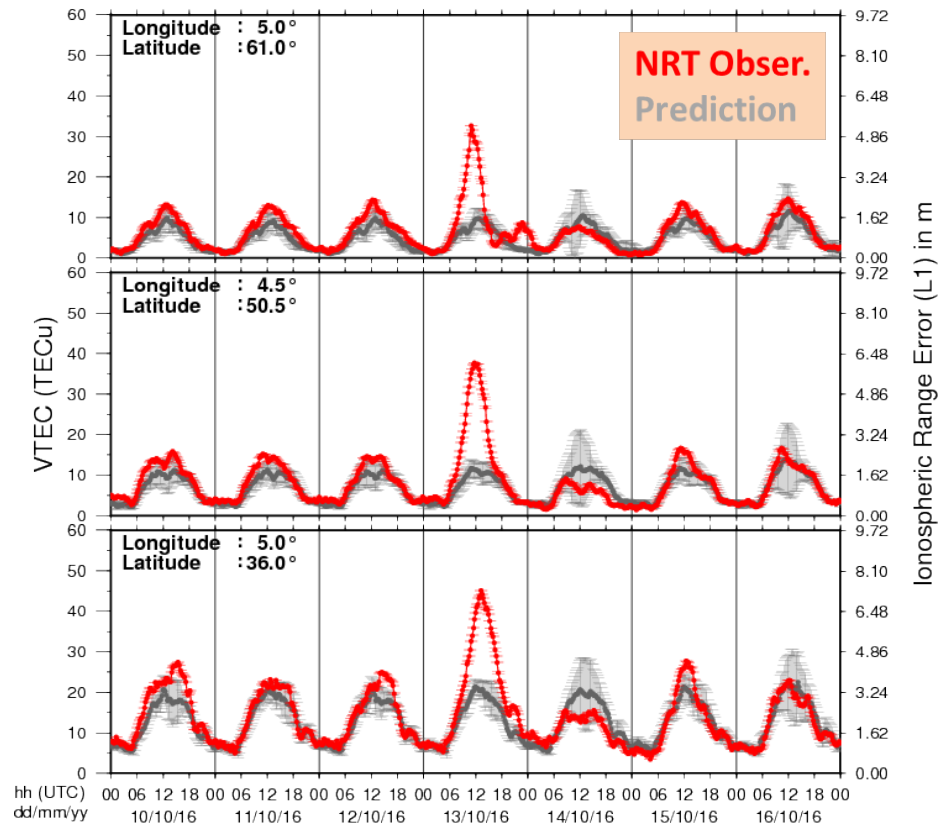


2012–present (43 events)

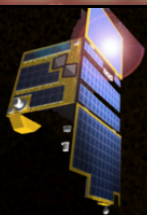
70% CMEs impact Geom.

20% Geom.

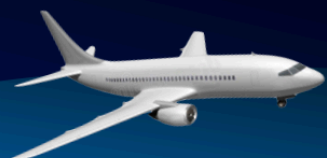
10% Unidentified SWO



PECASUS for ICAO



radiation at
flight altitude



HF communication
disturbances



GNSS positional
errors



International Civil Aviation Organisation

SWX ADVISORY		
DTG:	20170818/020304Z	<i>time of generation</i>
SWXC:	PECASUS	<i>space weather center</i>
ADVISORY NR:	2017/314	<i>sequence nr</i>
SWX EFFECT	HF COM SEV	<i>impact MOD or SEV</i>
OBS SWX	20170818/015520Z	<i>observed time of flare</i>
	DAYLIGHT SIDE	<i>affected area</i>
FCST SWX +6HR:	NO SWX EXP	<i>forecast</i>
FCST SWX +12HR:	NO SWX EXP	<i>forecast</i>
FCST SWX +18HR:	NO SWX EXP	<i>forecast</i>
FCST SWX +24HR:	NO SWX EXP	<i>forecast</i>
RMK:	Solar flare occurred. Complete HF (high frequency) radio blackout on the entire sunlit side of the Earth lasting for a number of hours. This results in no HF radio contact with mariners and en route aviators in this sector.	
NXT ADVISORY:	NO FURTHER ADVISORIES	

Sixteenth European Space Weather Week

18 - 22 November, 2019, Liège, Belgium



Take home message

- Space Weather is very multidisciplinary bringing together Belgian scientists from many disciplines to state of the art research
- Space Weather connects fundamental space research to the needs of a technological society and is therefore strongly growing
- Space Weather is a planet-wide and therefore very international. Oversea networking is essential

Acknowledgements

- A few slides were used from Karel Schrijver's presentation at ESWW11 (2014, Liège)
- Graphs from RMI/Dourbes were used
- The Sunspot Number is a product of the SILSO World data center (<http://sidc.be/silso>)