



Institute for Space Weather Sciences Colloquium

Thursday, 9th of November 2023, 1pm ET

via njit.webex.com, meeting ID: 2621 447 3191, password: isws

Dr. Andrey Zhukov, Royal Observatory of Belgium

ASPIICS, a Giant Solar Coronagraph Onboard the PROBA-3 Mission

PROBA-3, to be launched in July 2024, is an ESA mission dedicated to the in-flight demonstration of precise formation flying techniques and technologies. Two small satellites will fly in a precise formation, producing a very long baseline solar coronagraph called ASPIICS (Association of Spacecraft for Polarimetric and Imaging Investigation of the Corona of the Sun). One spacecraft will carry the optical telescope, and the second spacecraft will carry the external occulter of the coronagraph. The inter-satellite distance of around 144 m will allow observing the inner corona close to the solar limb with very low straylight. The scientific objectives of PROBA-3 will be discussed.



Dr. Andrei Zhukov graduated from the Faculty of Physics of the Moscow State University in Russia. Since 2001, he has been employed at the Royal Observatory of Belgium. His primary area of expertise is the physics of the solar corona and the connections between coronal and interplanetary phenomena. He has actively participated in various solar and heliospheric space missions, including STEREO, PROBA2, Parker Solar Probe and Solar Orbiter. He is the Principal Investigator of the ASPIICS solar coronagraph aboard the PROBA-3 mission of ESA.