

Preface

Werner W. Weiss¹

¹ Institut für Astronomie, Universität Wien, Türkenschanzstrasse 17, 1180 Vienna, Austria

With UniBRITE and BRITE-Austria (TUG-SAT 1) progressing smoothly according to a scheduled launch at the end of 2008 or early 2009, time was right to bring together all involved parties for an intensive exchange of information: instrument developers as well as the potential user community. It was possible to use the facilities of the *Haus der Forschung* thanks to the hospitality of the *Austrian Research Promotion Agency* (Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft, Agentur für Luft- und Raumfahrt), FFG-ALR.

This first BRITE Workshop while intentionally focused on an information exchange within the Austrian community, also greatly benefited from a participation of our canadian colleagues representing the other main community involved in the BRITE-Constellation Project. Presently, UniBRITE and BRITE-Austria are the first fully funded components with the prospect of additional units funded by Canada.

Originally, there was no commitment to produce workshop proceedings given the fact that most of the meeting participants are already under pressure to write manuscripts for other conference publications. In the end these proceedings were compiled to provide reference information for the workshop participants and the BRITE Science and Engineering Teams as a guide to the ongoing instrument development and mission planning activities. To reduce the strain on authors we accepted reasonably well commented Powerpoint presentations (or similar). This new approach is an experiment and we hope that the current proceedings will serve as an appropriate recollection of what was presented and discussed during the two days in May 2007, despite its non-classical format.

A follow-up workshop is planned for the first week of July 2008 with the intention to attract further attention for the BRITE-Constellation mission in the international science community.

Finally, I want to thank all participants, my team and in particular the editors of this volume, Konstanze Zwintz and Alexander Kaiser, for all their efforts and devotion. We all are looking forward to meet you and others again in summer 2008 offering another enjoyable closing dinner at our observatory.