

# Exploring the Universe: Synergies in the ESA Science Programme

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## **Abstract**

Science is THE underpinning theme of ESA. As the motor of the spiral of inspiration, innovation, information exchange and interaction (I4) with the Agency's stakeholders, science is a key unifying theme of the Agency's activities. Basic science drives innovation and therefore technological advances, leading to progress and economic development. It drives inspiration and thus the fascination and education of new generations of scientists and engineers. It drives information exchange and communication with the general public that in the end as taxpayers fund the Agency. And it drives the interaction among scientists, with international partners and with stakeholders, ultimately leading to new projects and the next turn of the I4-spiral. Starting from recent discoveries in astrophysics and space science I give a comprehensive summary of the ESA Science Programme and the strategic development plans for the future. In particular I will give examples of important synergies between different ESA Science missions.