

For Immediate Release...

Media Lario S.r.l. Awarded a Contract to Supply Advanced Optical System Integration for the European Space Agency's ATHENA X-ray Space Telescope

Milan, Italy 2 September, 2015 – Media Lario S.r.l., a world leader in advanced optical components and systems for space missions, large terrestrial telescopes and satellite imaging systems, announced today that it had been awarded a contract by the European Space Agency (ESA) to develop and demonstrate critical optical system integration for the ATHENA X-ray space telescope, leading a team of prime experts that includes ADS International, BCV Progetti, Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera, Thales Alenia Space Italia.

ATHENA, the Advanced Telescope for High-Energy Astrophysics, is a second L-class mission in ESA Cosmic Vision 2015-2025 plan. It will be an X-ray space telescope designed to address the Cosmic Vision science theme 'The Hot and Energetic Universe' with its launch planned for 2028. It will seek answers to the questions, "How does ordinary matter assemble into the large-scale structures we see today?" and, "How do black holes grow and shape the Universe?". ATHENA will map hot gas structures in the Universe – specifically the gas in clusters and groups of galaxies, and the intergalactic medium – determine their physical properties and track their evolution through cosmic time. It will also seek to reveal the inflows and outflows of matter and energy of supermassive black holes. By combining a large X-ray telescope with state-of-the-art scientific instruments, ATHENA will be able to make an important contribution to answering these questions.

In supplying the optical system integration for the ATHENA X-ray telescope, Media Lario leverages its experience gained over two decades of working in X-ray space telescopes starting with the Beppo-SAX mission for the Italian Space Agency (Agenzia Spaziale Italiana, ASI), JET-X / SWIFT for NASA and ASI, the XMM mission for ESA, and the EROSITA mission for the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics (MPE). In each case, Media Lario utilised its unique and patented Electroformed Mirror Manufacturing process and its extensive expertise with X-ray optics integration.

Jeff Lyons, recently appointed CEO of Media Lario S.r.l. said, "Being selected by ESA for the development and demonstration of the integration process of the X-ray optics for the ATHENA space telescope is a great achievement for us. It represents much hard work and dedication and an acknowledgement of our expertise in space telescopes and supplying high quality optical systems. Throughout our history, we have become known as technology problem solvers for our customers and we are very proud of this reputation. The company is very pleased to be working with ESA and the other key partners on the ATHENA program in the years ahead."

Media Lario is located north of the industrial hub of Milan, Italy, in the Lombardia region. The area is rich with opto-mechanical expertise and experience in the space industry. It is located near Lake Como and the historic cities of Lecco and Bergamo. The view expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Space Agency.

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For more information about the ESA ATHENA program, visit the ESA website at: <http://sci.esa.int/cosmic-pvision/54517-athena/>



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