



An introduction to Solar Intensity X-ray and particle Spectrometer (SIXS) for BepiColombo

Juhani Huovelin, Maria Genzer, and the SIXS Team

The Solar Intensity X-ray and particle Spectrometer (SIXS) instrument for the BepiColombo mission to planet Mercury is introduced. The instrument consists of a wide field X-ray spectrometer (SIXS-X) for measurements of solar X-rays in the energy range from 1 to 20 keV, and a particle sensor system (SIXS-P) for measurements of electrons in the 0.3-3 MeV range, and protons in the 1-30 MeV energy range. The technical characteristics of the instrument are described, and an overview of the science plan is given. The present status of the instrument development is reported and also some highlights and challenges during the instrument development are discussed.