

Unravelling the sky's mysteries and isolating its anomalies: the Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena (UAP) Observations Reporting Scheme, one year later.

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* This work is undertaken as personal work; it has not been endorsed as a research activity by ESA

Abstract

Since the beginning of time, gazing up at the night sky has been an unalterable source of deep interrogation, a subtle mix of fear and unstoppable need for expanding our knowledge of our origin and destiny. Today, the mysteries of the sky continue to awe many novice observers viewing something entirely unfamiliar for the first time.

Throughout the last 60 years the subject of UAP (popularly known as UFOs) has generated intense interest and invaded modern consciousness worldwide. Despite the fact that the majority of sightings can be explained by some known phenomenon, a small residue of cases seems to remain unexplained and the debate over and fascination for the extraterrestrial hypothesis regularly resurface among the public. As the bulk of the reported UAP sightings can be attributed to a misidentification of some astronomical or man-made airborne objects, an excessive amount of UAP researchers' time is spent handling superfluous data.



Figure 1: Shamakhy Astrophysical observatory, Azerbaijan

Launched under the framework of International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009), the Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena (UAP) Observations Reporting Scheme aims to alleviate this. The Scheme has two main objectives: 1) providing amateur and professional astronomers a formal

mechanism (a questionnaire) for reporting any unexplained phenomena they observe when studying the night sky, and 2) contributing towards a better understanding of transient atmospheric phenomena by explaining the most common causes of UAP misidentifications for the general public. All of this is available on one easily accessed Website.



Figure 2: Project's logo

As the project reaches its one year milestone and as a follow up to my EPSC presentation on this subject in 2009, this presentation will provide an overview of the current status of the initiative, highlighting preliminary results in terms of questionnaires received, infrastructure, outreach activities, website traffic reports and feedback from the astronomical community; while exploring ideas for the future.



Figure 3: Hessdalen, Norway