

## The Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues



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# The Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues

Astrometric and Photometric Star Catalogues  
derived from the  
ESA Hipparcos Space Astrometry Mission

A Collaboration Between  
the European Space Agency  
and  
the FAST, NDAC, TDAC and INCA Consortia

and the Hipparcos Industrial Consortium led by

Matra Marconi Space

and

Alenia Spazio

European Space Agency  
Agence spatiale européenne

Cover illustration: an impression of selected stars in their true positions around the Sun, as determined by Hipparcos, and viewed from a distant vantage point. Inset: sky map of the mean observation epoch of stars in the Hipparcos Catalogue, relative to J1991.25, in ecliptic coordinates.

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*Composition:* Volume 1: M.A.C. Perryman  
Volume 2: K.S. O'Flaherty  
Volume 3: F. van Leeuwen, L. Lindegren & F. Mignard  
Volume 4: U. Bastian & E. Høg  
Volumes 5–11: Hans Schrijver  
Volume 12: Michel Grenon  
Volume 13: Michel Grenon (charts) & Hans Schrijver (tables)  
Volumes 14–16: Roger W. Sinnott  
Volume 17: Hans Schrijver & W. O'Mullane

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Volume 1

Introduction and Guide to the Data



# Contents

## Volume 1: Part 1. The Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues

Preface . . . . .	xiii
Summary of the Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues . . . . .	xv
Scientific Involvement in the Hipparcos Mission . . . . .	xvi
1.1. Introduction to the Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues . . . . .	1
1.1.1. Overview of the Hipparcos Mission . . . . .	3
1.1.2. Catalogues and Documentation before Satellite Launch . . . . .	7
1.1.3. The Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues and Products . . . . .	8
1.1.4. How to Use the Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues . . . . .	10
1.2. Astrometric Data . . . . .	17
1.2.1. The Astrometric Parameters Determined by Hipparcos . . . . .	19
1.2.2. The Hipparcos Reference Frame . . . . .	22
1.2.3. Time Scales . . . . .	23
1.2.4. Fundamental Constants . . . . .	24
1.2.5. Conventions for Angular Coordinates . . . . .	25
1.2.6. Conventions for Epochs . . . . .	26
1.2.7. Variance-Covariance Data and Correlations . . . . .	28
1.2.8. The Standard Model of Stellar Motion . . . . .	29
1.2.9. Use of Local Plane Coordinates . . . . .	34
1.3. Photometric Data, Magnitudes and Variability . . . . .	37
1.3.1. Hipparcos (Main Mission) Photometry: Single Stars . . . . .	39
1.3.2. Hipparcos (Main Mission) Photometry: Double Stars . . . . .	40
1.3.3. Tycho (Star Mapper) Photometry . . . . .	43
1.3.4. Photometric Data from Ground-Based Observations . . . . .	43
1.3.5. Published Data Related to the Hipparcos Photometry . . . . .	45
1.3.6. Published Data Related to the Tycho Photometry . . . . .	47
Appendix 1: Statistical Indicators . . . . .	49
Appendix 2: Variability Indicators . . . . .	51
Appendix 3: Period Optimisation and Amplitude Estimation . . . . .	55
Appendix 4: Photometric Transformations . . . . .	57
Appendix 5: Determination of the $V - I$ Colour Index . . . . .	65
1.4. Double and Multiple Systems . . . . .	73
1.4.1. Complications Arising from the Observations . . . . .	75
1.4.2. Categorisation of Hipparcos Double Stars . . . . .	79
1.4.3. Presentation of Double and Multiple Star Data . . . . .	81
1.4.4. Hipparcos Catalogue Entries and Relationship to the CCDM . . . . .	82
1.4.5. Statistics of Observed Double and Multiple Systems . . . . .	84

1.5. Transformation of Astrometric Data and Associated Error Propagation . . .	87
1.5.1. Introduction . . . . .	89
1.5.2. General Error Propagation . . . . .	90
1.5.3. Coordinate Transformations . . . . .	91
1.5.4. Epoch Transformation: Simplified Treatment . . . . .	94
1.5.5. Epoch Transformation: Rigorous Treatment . . . . .	94
1.5.6. Calculation of Space Coordinates and Velocity . . . . .	98
1.5.7. Relation to the J2000(FK5) Reference Frame . . . . .	100

## **Volume 1: Part 2. Description of Catalogues and Annexes**

2.1. Contents of the Hipparcos Catalogue . . . . .	103
2.2. Contents of the Tycho Catalogue . . . . .	139
2.3. Hipparcos Catalogue: Double and Multiple Systems Annex (DMSA) . . .	165
2.3.1. Overview of the DMSA . . . . .	167
2.3.2. DMSA/C: Component Solutions . . . . .	172
2.3.3. DMSA/G: Acceleration Solutions . . . . .	178
2.3.4. DMSA/O: Orbital Solutions . . . . .	182
2.3.5. DMSA/V: VIM ('Variability-Induced Mover') Solutions . . . . .	185
2.3.6. DMSA/X: Stochastic Solutions . . . . .	189
2.3.7. The Machine-Readable DMSA . . . . .	191
2.4. Hipparcos Catalogue: Variability Annex . . . . .	201
2.5. Hipparcos Catalogue: Epoch Photometry Annex (and Extension) . . . . .	215
2.6. Tycho Catalogue: Epoch Photometry Annex . . . . .	227
2.7. Solar System Objects . . . . .	237
2.8. Hipparcos Catalogue: Intermediate Astrometric Data . . . . .	255
2.9. Hipparcos Catalogue: Transit Data . . . . .	263
2.10. Identification Charts and Tables . . . . .	277
2.10.1. Identification Charts . . . . .	279
2.10.2. Identification Tables . . . . .	287
2.11. Machine-Readable Files and CD-ROMs . . . . .	289
2.11.1. Conventions for the ASCII CD-ROMs . . . . .	291
2.11.2. Contents and Directory Structure of the ASCII CD-ROMs . . . . .	292
2.11.3. Checksums for the Printed Catalogue . . . . .	306
2.11.4. <i>Celestia 2000</i> . . . . .	307



### **Volume 1: Part 3. Properties of the Catalogues**

3.1. Statistical Properties: Introduction . . . . .	309
3.2. Statistical Properties: The Hipparcos Catalogue . . . . .	317
3.3. Statistical Properties: The Tycho Catalogue . . . . .	397
3.4. Statistical Properties: Catalogue Comparisons . . . . .	427
3.5. Statistical Properties: Astrophysical Relationships . . . . .	453
3.6. Selected Stars from the Hipparcos Catalogue . . . . .	479
Table 3.6.1. The 150 Stars Closest to the Sun . . . . .	482
Table 3.6.2. The 150 Stars with Largest Proper Motions . . . . .	484
Table 3.6.3. The 150 Stars with Largest Transverse Velocities . . . . .	486
Table 3.6.4. The 150 Most Luminous Stars . . . . .	488

### **Volume 1: Appendices**

Appendix A. Glossary . . . . .	491
Appendix B. Acknowledgements . . . . .	501
Appendix C. Contributors by Name . . . . .	513
Index . . . . .	527



## Contents of Volumes 2–17

Volume 2	The Hipparcos Satellite Operations
Volume 3	Construction of the Hipparcos Catalogue
Volume 4	Construction of the Tycho Catalogue
Volumes 5–9	The Hipparcos Catalogue (notes at end of each volume)
	Volume 5: 0 <sup>h</sup> – 3 <sup>h</sup> : 1 – 18677 . . . . 2– 375, GN 1– 7
	Volume 6: 4 <sup>h</sup> – 8 <sup>h</sup> : 18601 – 44180 . . . . 376– 887, GN 9–18
	Volume 7: 9 <sup>h</sup> – 13 <sup>h</sup> : 44101 – 68389 . . . . 888–1373, GN19–27
	Volume 8: 14 <sup>h</sup> – 18 <sup>h</sup> : 68301 – 93276 . . . . 1374–1873, GN29–37
	Volume 9: 19 <sup>h</sup> – 23 <sup>h</sup> : 93201 – 118322 . . . . 1874–2377, GN39–48
Volume 10	Hipparcos Double and Multiple Systems Annex:
	Part C: Component Solutions . . . . . DC1–452
	Part G: Acceleration Solutions . . . . . DG1– 14
	Part O: Orbital Solutions . . . . . DO1– 5
	Part V: VIM (‘Variability-Induced Mover’) Solutions . . . . . DV1– 3
	Part X: Stochastic Solutions . . . . . DX1– 4
	Notes on Double and Multiple Systems . . . . . DN1– 28
	Solar System Objects:
	Hipparcos: Astrometric Catalogue . . . . . SHA1–29
	Hipparcos: Photometric Catalogue . . . . . SHP1–14
	Tycho: Astrometric and Photometric Catalogue . . . . . ST1– 3
Volume 11	Hipparcos Variability Annex: Tables
	Part 1: Periodic Variables . . . . . P1– 28
	Part 2: Unsolved Variables . . . . . U1– 56
	Photometric Notes and References . . . . . PN1–114
	Photometric Notes by Number . . . . . PA1– 31
	Photometric Notes by Author . . . . . PR1– 18
	Spectral Types for Hipparcos Catalogue Entries . . . . . SP1–192
Volume 12	Hipparcos Variability Annex: Light Curves
	Part A: Folded . . . . . A1–539
	Part B: AAVSO . . . . . B1– 55
	Part C: Unsolved . . . . . C1–166
Volume 13	Identification Charts
	Part D: Charts from the STScI Digitised Sky Survey . . . . D1– 33
	Part G: Charts from the Guide Star Catalog . . . . . G1–311
	Identification Tables
	Table 1: HIP Inconsistent with HIC Cross-Identifiers . . . . ID1-1
	Table 2: HD (Henry Draper) Catalogue Numbers . . . . ID2-1–100
	Table 3: HR (Bright Star) Catalogue Numbers . . . . ID3-1–10
	Table 4: Bayer and Flamsteed Names . . . . . ID4-1–5
	Table 5: Variable Star Names . . . . . ID5-1–8
	Table 6: Common Star Names . . . . . ID6-1
Volumes 14–16	<i>Sky &amp; Telescope’s</i> Millennium Star Atlas
	Volume 14: 0 <sup>h</sup> – 7 <sup>h</sup>
	Volume 15: 8 <sup>h</sup> – 15 <sup>h</sup>
	Volume 16: 16 <sup>h</sup> – 23 <sup>h</sup>
Volume 17	The Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues on ASCII CD-ROM



## Preface

The Hipparcos astrometry mission was accepted within the European Space Agency's scientific programme in 1980. The Hipparcos satellite was designed and constructed under ESA responsibility by a European industrial consortium led by Matra Marconi Space (France) and Alenia Spazio (Italy), and launched by Ariane 4 on 8 August 1989. High-quality scientific data were acquired between November 1989 and March 1993, and communications with the satellite were terminated on 15 August 1993. All of the scientific goals motivating the mission's adoption in 1980 were surpassed.

The products of the Hipparcos mission are two major astrometric catalogues, the Hipparcos Catalogue (of 118 218 stars) and the Tycho Catalogue (of more than one million stars), both derived from instruments on board the Hipparcos satellite. The global data analysis tasks, proceeding from nearly 1000 Gbit of raw satellite data to the final catalogues, was a lengthy and complex process, and was undertaken by the NDAC and FAST Consortia, together responsible for the production of the Hipparcos Catalogue, and the Tycho Consortium, responsible for the production of the Tycho Catalogue. A fourth scientific consortium, the INCA Consortium, was responsible for the construction of the Hipparcos observing programme, compiling the best-available data for the selected stars before launch into the Hipparcos Input Catalogue. The production of the Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues marks the formal end of the involvement in the mission by the European Space Agency and the four scientific consortia.

Each of the catalogues includes a large quantity of very high quality astrometric and photometric data, as well as annexes featuring variability and double/multiple star data. In the case of the Hipparcos Catalogue, the principal parts are provided in both printed and machine-readable form. In the case of the Tycho Catalogue, results are provided in machine-readable form only. Although in general only the final reduced and calibrated astrometric and photometric data are provided, some auxiliary files containing results from intermediate stages of the data processing, of relevance for the more-specialised user, have also been retained for publication.

The printed volumes include both a description of the Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues and associated annexes, a description of the satellite operational phase, a description of the corresponding data analysis tasks, and the appropriate subsets of the final data. Machine-readable versions of the catalogues are provided in two forms: the definitive mission products are released as a set of ASCII files on a series of CD-ROMs, which contain all of the printed catalogue information as well as some additional data. A distinct CD-ROM product, *Celestia 2000*, contains the principal astrometric and photometric data, in compressed form, along with specific interrogation software.

Considerable emphasis has been placed on presenting a unique set of fully reduced and calibrated astrometric and photometric parameters. An almost conflicting requirement has been to make the final results available promptly. The Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues have been finalised, documented, and archived within three years of the termination of the satellite operations, and the compilers trust that deviations from a perfect product may be viewed in this context.

M.A.C. Perryman, ESA Project Scientist  
E. Høg, Tycho Consortium  
J. Kovalevsky, FAST Consortium  
L. Lindegren, NDAC Consortium  
C. Turon, INCA Consortium



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**Summary of the Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues**


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Measurement period	1989.85–1993.21
Catalogue epoch	J1991.25
Reference system	ICRS
Coincidence with respect to ICRS (all 3 axes)	$\pm 0.6$ mas
Proper motion deviation from inertial (all 3 axes)	$\pm 0.25$ mas/yr

## Hipparcos Catalogue:

Number of entries	118 218
Entries with associated astrometry	117 955
Entries with associated photometry	118 204
Mean sky density	$\sim 3$ per square degree
Limiting magnitude	$V \sim 12.4$ mag
Completeness	Up to $V = 7.3 - 9.0$ mag
Median precision of positions, J1991.25 ( $H_p < 9$ mag)	0.77/0.64 mas (RA/dec)
Median precision of parallaxes ( $H_p < 9$ mag)	0.97 mas
Median precision of proper motions ( $H_p < 9$ mag)	0.88/0.74 mas/yr (RA/dec)
10 per cent (each of the five parameters) better than	0.47–0.66 mas
Distance determined to better than 10 per cent ( $\sigma_\pi/\pi < 0.1$ )	20853
Distance determined to better than 20 per cent ( $\sigma_\pi/\pi < 0.2$ )	49399
Inferred ratio of external errors to standard errors	$\sim 1.0 - 1.2$
Estimated systematic errors in astrometry	$< 0.1$ mas
Total number of independent astrometric abscissae	$\sim 3.6 \times 10^6$
Median photometric precision ( $H_p$ , for $H_p < 9$ mag)	0.0015 mag
Mean number of photometric observations per star	110
Total number of $H_p$ photometric measurements	$\sim 13 \times 10^6$
Number of entries variable or possibly variable	11597 (8237 new)
Periodic variables	2712 (970 new)
Cepheid type	273 (2 new)
RR Lyrae type	186 (9 new)
$\delta$ Scuti and SX Phoenicis type	108 (35 new)
Eclipsing binaries (e.g. EA, EB, EW,...)	917 (343 new)
Other types (e.g. M, SR, RV Tau,...)	1238 (576 new)
Non-periodic and unsolved (e.g. RCrB, $\gamma$ Cas, Z And)	5542 (4145 new)
Not investigated (including micro-variables)	3343 (3122 new)
Number of solved or suspected double/multiple systems	23882
Systems with component data (annex part C)	12195 (2996 new)
Orbital systems (annex part O)	235
Astrometric binaries (annex parts G and V)	2910
Suspected non-single (including annex part X)	8542

## Tycho Catalogue:

Number of entries (including 6301 HIP only)	1 058 332
Mean sky density	$\sim 25$ per square degree
Limiting magnitude	$V_T \sim 11.5$ mag
Completeness	$V_T \sim 10.5$ mag
Median astrometric precision (all stars), J1991.25	25 mas
Median astrometric precision ( $V_T < 9$ mag), J1991.25	7 mas
Inferred ratio of external errors to standard errors	$\sim 1.0 - 1.5$
Systematic errors in astrometry	$< 1$ mas
Mean number of astrometric and photometric observations per star	130
Total number of astrometric and photometric observations	$\sim 130 \times 10^6$
Median photometric precision (all stars): $B_T, V_T, B_T - V_T$	0.07, 0.06, 0.10 mag
Median photometric precision ( $V_T < 9$ mag): $B_T, V_T, B_T - V_T$	0.014, 0.012, 0.019 mag

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## Scientific Involvement in the Hipparcos Mission

The Hipparcos observing programme was based upon a single, uniquely-defined Input Catalogue. Compiled at the Observatoire de Paris, Meudon, the preparation of this catalogue involved the collaboration of a large number of ESA Member State scientists—for the detailed assessment of existing astrometric and photometric data, for the extensive compilation of ground-based observations necessary to bring the observing catalogue to the quality required for the satellite observations and data analyses, and for the iterative selection of programme stars made by simulating the satellite observations. While the INCA Consortium Leader was responsible for the Hipparcos Input Catalogue compilation as a whole, various ‘task leaders’ were responsible for the various subsets of the work. The Consortium included institutes from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, the U.K., and the U.S.A.

The data analysis tasks were substantial, and the entire organisation of the preparation and execution of the work was complex. The leaders of the three Consortia were assisted by Executive Committees comprising the ‘task leaders’ responsible for the various disciplines and data processing stages and, where appropriate, by evaluation or software maintenance groups. The work of each Consortium was ‘monitored’ by a Steering Committee with representatives of each participating country.

Within the NDAC Consortium, the data analysis was performed in the countries which developed the respective software elements—that is, in Denmark, Sweden, and in the U.K., with the individual participating institutes responsible for their own software quality, data interfaces, and data management.

Within the FAST Consortium, all of the integrated software was run within the CNES (Toulouse) computing centre; substantial elements of the integrated software also ran within the Consortium’s First-Look Facility at SRON (Utrecht). The software elements of the scientific data processing package were developed within participating institutes in France, Germany, Italy, and The Netherlands. Acceptance tests were run before and after software integration, and the responsible institutes participated closely in the evaluation of results during execution.

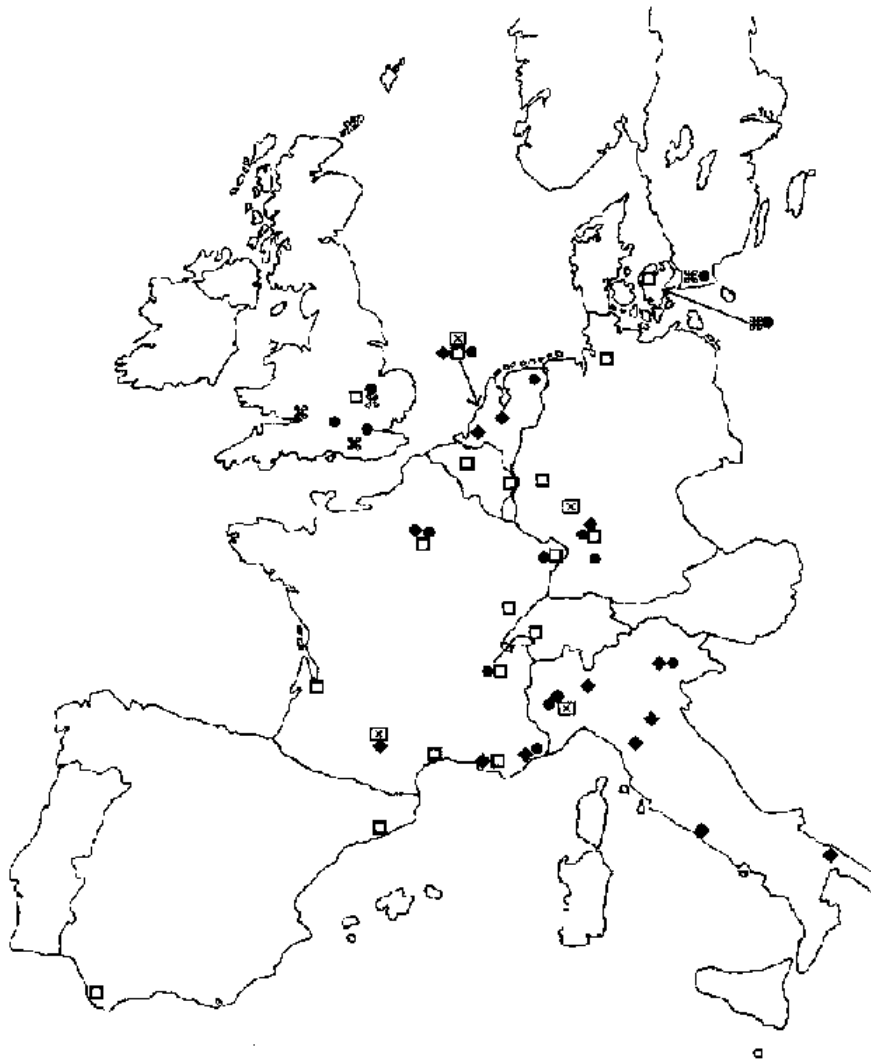
The Tycho Consortium relied on some software elements and results of the data processing within NDAC and FAST (in particular, the satellite attitude for TDAC was derived by the NDAC Consortium within Denmark, based upon the first analysis steps carried out in U.K.). The data processing activities specific to the Tycho Catalogue construction were carried out at institutes within Denmark, France, and Germany.

Extensive cross-checking of the intermediate data processing stages was carried out where the expertise and resources permitted. Thus, the one-dimensional ‘great-circle’ results from FAST and NDAC were intercompared at the Geodetic Institute in Delft, where the relevant FAST software was developed; the precise reconstructed satellite attitude data from both Consortia were intercompared and evaluated at CSS (Torino) where the software for the first stages of the FAST data treatment were developed and coded. Other major intercomparison exercises were carried out at various institutes.

All results, including intermediate catalogues, were compiled in a centralised data base at SRON (Utrecht) where final verification was undertaken.

The scientific activities related to the project were coordinated by the ESA Project Scientist, supported by the Hipparcos Science Team.





<b>FAST:</b> ◆	<b>NDAC:</b> *	<b>TDAC:</b> ●	<b>INCA:</b> □	<b>ESA / Industry:</b> ☒
Asiago	Cambridge	Asiago	Barcelona	ESA/ESTEC
Bari	Cardiff	Baltimore (U.S.A.)	Besancon	ESA/ESOC
Bologna	Copenhagen	Cambridge	Bonn	Toulouse (Matra)
Delft	Dorking	Chilton	Bordeaux	Torino (Alenia)
Firenze	Lund	Copenhagen	Bronfelde	
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Grasse		Grasse	Cambridge	
Haystack (U.S.A.)		Groningen	Cambridge (U.S.A.)	
Heidelberg		Heidelberg	Geneve	
Leiden		Leiden	Hamburg	
Marseille		London	Heidelberg	
Milano		Lund	Lausanne	
Paris		Paris	Lelden	
Pasadena (U.S.A.)		Strasbourg	Liege	
Torino		Torino	Marseille	
Toulouse		Tubingen	Montpellier	
Utrecht		Washington (U.S.A.)	Paris	
			San Fernando	
			Strasbourg	
			Texas (U.S.A.)	

Location of scientific institutes participating in Hipparcos  
(irrespective of level of contribution)  
ESA-ESTEC, ESA-ESOC and the main industrial contractors are also indicated



# The Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues

resulting from the  
European Space Agency's Hipparcos Space Astrometry Mission  
have been prepared by:

## **The NDAC Consortium**

under the leadership of  
L. Lindegren  
*Consortium Leader (1990–97)*  
*Lund Observatory*  
*Lund, Sweden*  
*[formerly E. Høg (1982–90)]*

## **The FAST Consortium**

under the leadership of  
J. Kovalevsky  
*Consortium Leader (1982–97)*  
*Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur*  
*Grasse, France*

for the Hipparcos Catalogue and associated annexes

and

## **The Tycho Consortium**

under the leadership of  
E. Høg  
*Consortium Leader (1983–97)*  
*Copenhagen University Observatory*  
*Copenhagen, Denmark*

for the Tycho Catalogue and associated annexes

based on

The Hipparcos Input Catalogue

compiled by

## **The INCA Consortium**

under the leadership of  
C. Turon  
*Consortium Leader (1982–94)*  
*Observatoire de Paris-Meudon*  
*France*

and

data from the ESA Hipparcos satellite, operated in orbit 1989–93

acquired under the scientific responsibility of

M.A.C. Perryman  
*ESA Hipparcos Project Scientist (1981–97)*  
*Space Science Department*  
*European Space Agency, Noordwijk*  
*The Netherlands*



Scientific coordination of the Hipparcos project has been led by

M.A.C. Perryman  
*ESA Hipparcos Project Scientist (1981–97)*  
*European Space Agency, Noordwijk*  
*The Netherlands*

and

The Hipparcos Science Team (1981–97 unless otherwise noted):

U. Bastian	Astronomisches Rechen-Institut, Heidelberg, Germany (from 1993)
P.L. Bernacca	Astrophysical Observatory, Asiago, Italy (from 1989)
M. Crézé	Observatoire de Strasbourg, France (from 1983)
F. Donati	Centro di Studi Sui Sistemi, Torino, Italy
M. Grenon	Observatoire de Genève, Switzerland (from 1982)
M. Grewing	Astronomisches Institut, Tübingen, Germany (from 1983)
E. Høg	Copenhagen University Observatory, Denmark
J. Kovalevsky	Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur/CERGA, Grasse, France
F. van Leeuwen	Royal Greenwich Observatory, Cambridge, U.K. (from 1986)
L. Lindegren	Lund Observatory, Sweden
H. van der Marel	Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands (from 1987)
F. Mignard	Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur/CERGA, Grasse, France (from 1991)
C.A. Murray	Royal Greenwich Observatory, Herstmonceux, U.K.
M.A.C. Perryman	European Space Agency, The Netherlands ( <i>Chairman</i> )
R.S. Le Poole	University of Leiden, The Netherlands
H. Schrijver	SRON, Utrecht, The Netherlands (from 1990)
C. Turon	Observatoire de Paris-Meudon, France

The Hipparcos Science Team, whose composition changed slightly during the lifetime of the Hipparcos project, advised ESA on all scientific aspects of the mission, and held responsibility for the overall scientific conduct of the Hipparcos project, through to the completion and distribution of the final catalogues. Previous members of the Science Team during the satellite design and development phase were P. Brosche (1982), C. Coleman (1981–82), A.M. Cruise (1983–86), D.T. van Daalen (1986), C. Jaschek (1981), M. Saisse (1981), H.G. Walter (1981), C.G. Wynne (1981–84).



## The FAST Consortium

### France:

M.T. Dumoulin†, J. Falin, J.L. Falin, M. Frœschlé, F. Gazengel, F. Genova,  
A. Guerry, D. Hestroffer, C. Huc, J. Kovalevsky (*Consortium Leader*), P. Lacroute†,  
J.F. Lestrade, C. Martin, F. Mignard, B. Morando†, J.L. Pieplu, G. Serieys, M. Vadel

A. Bec-Borsenberger\*, E. Bois\*, A. Budowski\*, B. Chausserie-Laprée\*,  
S. Daillet\*, J. Dupic\*, J.Y. Le Gall\*, M.H. Gomez\*,  
V. Roman\*, C. Taieb\*, A. Vargas\*, M. Villenave\*

### Germany:

H.H. Bernstein, C. Dettbarn, R. Hering, H. Lenhardt,  
S. Röser, H.G. Walter, R. Wielen

U. Bastian\*, W. Fricke†

### Italy:

M. Badiali, P.L. Bernacca, L. Borriello, B. Bucciarelli, E. Canuto,  
D. Cardini, F. Donati, A. Emanuele, B. Fassino, M.G. Lattanzi,  
F.P. Murgolo, R. Pannunzio, G. Prezioso, G. Sechi, A. Spagna

M. Amoretti\*, P. Belforte\*, D. Bertani\*, B. Betti\*, D. Carlucci\*,  
M. Cetica\*, W. Delaney\*, I.I. Galligani\*, M. Gonano\*, D. Iorio-Fili\*,  
F. Migliaccio\*, F. Sansò\*, M.G. Schirone\*, T. Tommasini\*, V. Zappala\*

### The Netherlands:

W.N. Brouw, H. van der Marel, R.S. Le Poole, H. Schrijver

D.T. van Daalen\*, F.A. van den Heuvel\*, P.J. de Jonge\*,  
T.M. Kamperman\*, J.J. Kok†, G.J. Wiersma\*

### United States of America:

D.L. Jones, R.B. Phillips, R.A. Preston

\* former member, or not active during the data reductions

† deceased





## The NDAC Consortium

### **Denmark:**

E. Høg, C.S. Petersen

G.K. Andreasen\*, P.C. Hansen\*, N. Lund\*, K. Poder\*

### **Sweden:**

L. Lindegren (*Consortium Leader*), S. Söderhjelm

### **United Kingdom:**

D.W. Evans, F. van Leeuwen, C.A. Murray,  
M.J. Penston, N. Ramamani

J.R. Allington-Smith\*, S.A. Cowling\*, A.M. Cruise\*,  
N. Elton\*, M.A.J. Snijders\*, G. Whitfield\*

\* former member, or not active during the data reductions



# The Tycho Consortium

## **Denmark:**

C. Fabricius, E. Høg (*Consortium Leader*), V.V. Makarov, H. Pedersen, C.S. Petersen  
G.K. Andreasen\*, P.C. Hansen\*, N. Lund\*, A.B. Saust\*, M. Yoshizawa\*

## **France:**

D. Egret, J.L. Halbwachs, J. Kovalevsky, C. Turon  
P. Didelon\*

## **Germany:**

G. Bässgen, U. Bastian, M. Grewing, V. Großmann,  
H. Mauder, D. Scales, P. Schwekendiek, M.A.J. Snijders, K. Wagner, A. Wicenec

## **Italy:**

P.L. Bernacca, F. Donati

## **The Netherlands:**

M.A.C. Perryman  
P.R. Wesselius\*

## **Sweden:**

L. Lindegren

## **Switzerland:**

M. Grenon

## **United Kingdom:**

F. van Leeuwen  
A. Butchins\*, D. McNally\*, B. Stewart\*

## **United States of America:**

B. McLean  
J.L. Russell\*

\* former member, or not active during the data reductions



## The INCA Consortium

### **Belgium:**

J. Dommaget, O. Nys

P. Lampens, J. Manfroid

### **Denmark:**

L. Helmer

### **France:**

F. Arenou, A. Bec-Borsenberger, M. Chareton, M. Crézé, F. Crifo,  
D. Egret, A. Gómez, M.O. Mennessier, D. Morin, L. Prévot,  
Y. Réquième, M. Rousseau, C. Turon (*Consortium Leader*)

J.E. Arlot, A. Baglin, D. Barthés, M.O. Baylac, J. Delhaye,  
J.M. Mazurier, E. Oblak, J.P. Périé, M. Rapaport, A. Sellier

### **Germany:**

H. Jahreiß,

P. Brosche, C. Dettbarn, M. Erbach, W. Fricke†,  
T. Lederle, H.-J. Tucholke, C. de Vegt

### **The Netherlands:**

M.A.C. Perryman

J. Lub, R.S. Le Poole

### **Spain:**

F. Figueras, C. Jordi, L. Quijano, J. Torra

### **Switzerland:**

M. Grenon, J.C. Mermilliod, B. Nicolet

M. Burnet, M. Mermilliod, B. Pernier

### **United Kingdom:**

A.N. Argue

L.V. Morrison, C.A. Murray

### **United States of America:**

P.D. Hemenway, J.A. Mattei

[A complete membership list of the consortium is given in  
the Hipparcos Input Catalogue, ESA SP-1136, 1992]

† deceased



## The Scientific Proposals Selection Committee

(for determining the scientific objectives of the observing programme, 1982–88)

A. Blaauw (*Chairman*), J. Dommaget, W. Gliese†, M. Hack,  
E.P.J. van den Heuvel, C. Jaschek, J. Lequeux, P.O. Lindblad,  
A. Maeder, P.E. Nissen, B.E.J. Pagel, A. Renzini,  
C. de Vegt, P.A. Wayman, R. Wielen





## Contributors by Subject: Hipparcos Data Analysis

### **Image Dissector Tube and Star Mapper Data Processing**

*Leaders:* F. van Leeuwen (NDAC) & F. Donati (FAST)  
E. Canuto, B. Fassino, C.A. Murray

### **Instrument Calibration**

*Leaders:* J. Kovalevsky, H. Schrijver & F. van Leeuwen  
D.W. Evans, J.L. Falin, M.J. Penston

### **Attitude Determination**

*Leaders:* F. Donati (FAST) & F. van Leeuwen (NDAC)  
E. Canuto, M.J. Penston, G. Sechi

### **Great-Circle Reductions**

*Leaders:* H. van der Marel (FAST) & C.S. Petersen (NDAC)  
J.L. Falin

### **Sphere Solution in FAST**

*Leader:* M. Fröschlé  
B. Bucciarelli, M.G. Lattanzi

### **Astrometric Parameter Determination in FAST**

*Leaders:* H.G. Walter & R. Hering  
H.H. Bernstein, C. Dettbarn, J.L. Falin,  
M. Fröschlé, H. Lenhardt, F. Mignard

### **Sphere Solution and Astrometric Parameter Determination in NDAC**

*Leader:* L. Lindegren  
S. Söderhjelm

...continued

## Hipparcos Data Analysis (cont.)

### **Double & Multiple Star Reductions**

*Leaders:* S. Söderhjelm (NDAC) & F. Mignard (FAST)  
M. Badiali, P.L. Bernacca, H.H. Bernstein, L. Borriello, D. Cardini,  
A. Emanuele, J.L. Falin, F. Gazengel, J. Kovalevsky,  
L. Lindegren, C. Martin, R. Pannunzio, G. Prezioso, A. Spagna

### **Photometric Reductions**

*Leaders:* F. Mignard (FAST) & F. van Leeuwen (NDAC)  
D.W. Evans, J.L. Falin, M. Grenon

### **Operational Software System in NDAC**

*Leaders:* F. van Leeuwen & C.S. Petersen  
D.W. Evans, M.J. Penston, S. Söderhjelm

### **Operational Software System in FAST**

*Leaders:* J.L. Pieplu, J. Kovalevsky & J.L. Falin  
E. Canuto, R. Hering, C. Huc, J.J. Kok†, F.P. Murgolo  
A. Guerry, J. Dupic, M. Villenave

## Contributors by Subject: Tycho Data Analysis

### **Signal Prediction**

*Leader:* U. Bastian  
P. Schwekendiek

### **Signal Detection and Estimation**

*Leader:* A. Wicenec  
G. Bässgen

### **Tycho Input Catalogue Revision**

*Leader:* J.L. Halbwachs  
G. Bässgen, U. Bastian, P. Schwekendiek, A. Wicenec

### **Signal Identification**

*Leader:* K. Wagner  
A. Wicenec, P. Schwekendiek

### **Astrometric Reductions**

*Leaders:* E. Høg & V.V. Makarov  
C. Fabricius, H. Pedersen

### **Photometric Reductions**

*Leaders:* V. Großmann & J.L. Halbwachs  
A. Wicenec

### **Catalogue Production**

*Leader:* E. Høg  
D. Egret, C. Fabricius, V. Großmann, V.V. Makarov, A. Wicenec

## Scientific Working Groups

### **Double Star Working Group**

*Leader:* F. Mignard

S. Söderhjelm & L. Lindegren

M. Badiali, H.H. Bernstein, J. Dommange<sup>◦</sup>, P. Lampens<sup>◦</sup>, R. Pannunzio

### **Photometry Working Group**

*Leader:* D.W. Evans

F. Mignard & F. van Leeuwen

M. Grenon<sup>◦</sup>, V. Großmann

### **Variable Star Working Group**

*Leaders:* F. van Leeuwen & M. Grenon<sup>◦</sup>

L. Eyer<sup>\*</sup>, J.A. Mattei<sup>◦</sup>, M.J. Penston

### **Astrometric Results Merging Working Group**

*Leader:* F. Arenou<sup>◦</sup>

C.A. Murray

M. Fröschlé, F. Mignard, L. Lindegren

### **Reference Frame Working Group**

*Leaders:* J. Kovalevsky & L. Lindegren

P. Hemenway<sup>◦</sup>, K.J. Johnston<sup>\*</sup>, V. Kislyuk<sup>\*</sup>,  
J.F. Lestrade, L.V. Morrison<sup>◦</sup>, I. Platais<sup>\*</sup>, S. Röser,  
E. Schilbach<sup>\*</sup>, H.-J. Tucholke<sup>◦</sup>, C. de Vegt<sup>◦</sup>, J. Vondrak<sup>\*</sup>

### **Documentation Working Group**

*Leader:* M.A.C. Perryman

E. Høg, J. Kovalevsky, F. van Leeuwen, L. Lindegren,  
F. Mignard, H. Schrijver, C. Turon<sup>◦</sup>

<sup>◦</sup> INCA Consortium

<sup>\*</sup> not a formal member of a Hipparcos scientific consortium

# Catalogue Production and Publication

## **The Hipparcos Catalogue (Volumes 5–9)**

*Leaders:* L. Lindegren & J. Kovalevsky

J.L. Falin, M. Fréschlé, M. Grenon, F. van Leeuwen  
F. Mignard, M.A.C. Perryman, H. Schrijver

## **The Tycho Catalogue**

*Leader:* E. Høg

G. Bässgen, U. Bastian, D. Egret, C. Fabricius,  
V. Großmann, J.L. Halbwachs, V.V. Makarov,  
P. Schwekendiek, K. Wagner, A. Wicenec

## **Double and Multiple Systems Annex (Volume 10)**

*Leaders:* S. Söderhjelm, L. Lindegren & F. Mignard

F. Arenou<sup>◦</sup>, M. Badiali, H.H. Bernstein, J. Kovalevsky,  
C. Martin, R. Pannunzio, R. Wielen

## **Solar System Observations (Volume 10)**

*Leaders:* D. Hestroffer & B. Morando<sup>†</sup>

U. Bastian, E. Høg, J. Kovalevsky, L. Lindegren,  
V.V. Makarov, F. Mignard, C.A. Murray

## **Variability Annex (Volume 11)**

*Leaders:* F. van Leeuwen & M. Grenon<sup>◦</sup>

D.W Evans, L. Eyer<sup>\*</sup>, M.J. Penston  
M.B. van Leeuwen-Toczko<sup>\*</sup>, S. Meara<sup>\*</sup>, C. Waelkens<sup>\*</sup>, I. Zegelaar<sup>\*</sup>  
N.N. Samus<sup>\*</sup>, M.S. Frolov<sup>\*</sup>, O.V. Durlevich<sup>\*</sup>, E.V. Kazarovets<sup>\*</sup>

## **Light Curves (Volume 12)**

*Leaders:* M. Grenon<sup>◦</sup> & F. van Leeuwen

D.W Evans, L. Eyer<sup>\*</sup>, G. Foster<sup>\*</sup>, J.A. Mattei<sup>◦</sup>, M.J. Penston

## **Identification Charts (Volume 13)**

*Leader:* M. Grenon<sup>◦</sup>

D. Mégevand<sup>\*</sup>, L. Weber<sup>\*</sup>

## **Millennium Star Atlas (Volumes 14–16)**

*Leaders:* R.W. Sinnott<sup>\*</sup> & M.A.C. Perryman

H. Schrijver, E. Høg  
E.T. Mentall<sup>\*</sup>, R.T. Fienberg<sup>\*</sup>, G. Dinderman<sup>\*</sup>, S.M. MacGillivray<sup>\*</sup>, L.J. Robinson<sup>\*</sup>

...continued

<sup>◦</sup> INCA Consortium

<sup>†</sup> deceased

<sup>\*</sup> not a formal member of a Hipparcos scientific consortium

## Catalogue Production and Publication (cont.)

### **Hipparcos Catalogue: Epoch Photometry Annex**

*Leaders:* D.W. Evans & F. Mignard  
M. Grenon<sup>°</sup>, F. van Leeuwen

### **Tycho Catalogue: Epoch Photometry Annex**

*Leader:* V. Großmann  
A. Wicenec, G. Bässgen, U. Bastian,  
J.L. Halbwachs, V.V. Makarov, K. Wagner

### **Hipparcos Intermediate Astrometry**

*Leaders:* F. Arenou<sup>°</sup> & C.A. Murray  
J.L. Falin, M. Fréschlé, L. Lindegren, F. Mignard

### **Hipparcos Transit Data**

*Leaders:* S. Söderhjelm & L. Lindegren

### **ASCII CD-ROM Organisation**

*Leaders:* H. Schrijver & M.A.C. Perryman  
K.S. O'Flaherty\*, W. O'Mullane\*

### ***Celestia 2000* CD-ROM**

*Leaders:* D. Priou\* & C. Turon<sup>°</sup>  
M.A.C. Perryman, E. Høg, L. Lindegren,  
U. Bastian, D. Morin<sup>°</sup>, H. Schrijver

### **Results Data Base and Catalogue Unification**

*Leader:* H. Schrijver

### **Printed Catalogue: Layout and Production**

*Leaders:* H. Schrijver & M.A.C. Perryman

### **Star Identification Tables (Volume 13)**

*Leader:* H. Schrijver  
D. Morin<sup>°</sup>

### **Statistical Properties (Section 3)**

*Leader:* H. Schrijver  
J.L. Falin, L. Lindegren, F. Mignard  
C. Fabricius, V.V. Makarov

<sup>°</sup> INCA Consortium

\* not a formal member of a Hipparcos scientific consortium

## Catalogue and Annex Descriptions and Formats

*Leader:* M.A.C. Perryman

U. Bastian, E. Høg, F. van Leeuwen, L. Lindegren,  
F. Mignard, H. Schrijver, C. Turon

1.1. Introduction . . . . .	M.A.C. Perryman
1.2. Astrometric Data . . . . .	L. Lindegren & M.A.C. Perryman
1.3. Photometric Data . . . . .	F. van Leeuwen
Appendix 4. . . . .	M. Grenon
Appendix 5. . . . .	M. Grenon
1.4. Double & Multiple Systems . . . . .	F. Mignard
1.5. Transformation of Astrometric Data . . . . .	L. Lindegren
2.1. Contents of the Hipparcos Catalogue . . . . .	M.A.C. Perryman
2.2. Contents of the Tycho Catalogue . . . . .	E. Høg & U. Bastian
2.3. Double & Multiple Systems Annex . . . . .	L. Lindegren
2.4. Variability Annex . . . . .	F. van Leeuwen & M. Grenon
2.5. Hipparcos Epoch Photometry Annex . . . . .	D.W. Evans
2.6. Tycho Epoch Photometry Annex . . . . .	U. Bastian & E. Høg
2.7. Solar System Objects . . . . .	D. Hestroffer
2.8. Intermediate Astrometric Data . . . . .	F. Arenou
2.9. Transit Data . . . . .	L. Lindegren
2.10. Identification Charts . . . . .	M. Grenon
Identification Tables . . . . .	H. Schrijver & D. Morin
2.11. Machine-Readable Files . . . . .	M.A.C. Perryman & W. O'Mullane

## Technical and Industrial Involvement

### The ESA Hipparcos Project Team

(management of the satellite development and operations by ESA-ESTEC since 1981)

L. Emiliani (Project Manager, 1980–84)

H. Hassan (Project Manager, 1984–89)

M.A.C. Perryman (Project Manager, 1990–93)

Section Heads (at Flight Acceptance Review):

K. Clausen (spacecraft), K. van Katwijk (payload),

O. Pace (integration), M. Schuyer (system analysis)

T. Batut, K.D. Bock, R. Bonnefoy, H.A. Eggel, A. Errington,

H.K. Fiebrich, P. Gleadle, J. van der Ha (ESOC), L. Hansson, K. Hühn,

D. Huthoff, E. Jäkel, G. Jung, B. Kroese, T. van der Laan,

H. Laue (ESOC), W. Liebrandt, P.N. Morgan, G. Ratier, S. Schroeder†,

M. Setzke, M.J. Smith, S. Vaghi, R.D. Wills, D.R. Wotton

### The ESOC Mission Operations Team

(operation of the Hipparcos satellite in orbit by ESA-ESOC)

Operations & Mission Analysis:

D. Heger, H. Nye

M. McCaig, J. Nolan, O. Ojanguren, C. Sollazzo

R. Leroux, M. Monaldi, E. Schambion, P. Vogt

Mission Analysis:

J. van der Ha, H.-H. Klinkrad

Flight Dynamics:

A. Schütz

A. Batten, P. Davies, A. McDonald, S. Retbøll

P. de Broeck†, P. Kristiansen

Software Support:

N. Head

J. Allan, R. Blake, J. Harborne, M. Keenan, C. Spanholtz

[A complete list of the ESOC Mission Operations Team is given in Volume 2]

† deceased



# The Hipparcos Industrial Development Team

(for industrial development of the Hipparcos satellite)

## **Matra Marconi Space, Toulouse, France**

(Satellite Prime Contractor and Payload Development)

C. Guionnet, Project Manager: 1982–85

M. Bouffard, Project Manager: 1985–90

Assistant Project Managers (at Flight Acceptance Review):

M. Le Moine (system), G. Fade (payload), R. Giralt (integration),

J. Tisserant (project control), M. Siguiet (product assurance), G. Martin (contracts)

J.J. Arnoux, I. Asseman, A. Bader, G. Bajard, J.J. Bertier, C. Biscans,  
E. Bonnes, C. Bousquet, L. Brett, B. Calvel, J.P. Camus, C. Cantone,  
S. Carthade, G. Chenut, M. Comet-Barthe, H. Costard, C. Dagrass,  
D. Dubet, M. Duran, A.M. Florentin, M. Fruit, J.P. Gardelle, V. Gardes,  
B. Gonzalez, F.X. Guerre, M. Hervieux, P. Hollier, N. Iche, G. Laffaye,  
A. Le Nenaon, J.P. Noel, C. Page, D. Pawlak, G. Planche, J.M. Pochet,  
P. Ranzoli, J.P. Roujas, I. Rouvière, J.M. Rupil, K. Soukhavong, G. Soulat,  
P. Temporelli, E. Truelle, D. Valat, E. Zeis, D. Zeller

## **Alenia Spazio, Torino, Italy**

(Co-Prime Contractor: Spacecraft Procurement  
and Satellite Assembly, Integration & Test)

B. Strim, Project Manager

Assistant Project Managers:

G. Finocchiaro (spacecraft procurement), W. Cugno (integration and test),

S. Rota (project control), G. Giusiano (product assurance),

C. Fea (contracts)

B. Bonafede, M. Braida, P. Baù, M. Bonato, M. Bianco,  
G. Bria Berter, M. Casale, M. Cernicchiaro, M. Curletti, A. De Biasi,  
G. De Bernardi, G. Fimognari, F. Frittella, E. Giorgio, G. Giulianelli,  
C. Godoli, G. Morsillo, L. Matteotti, A. Marotta, M. Marchi,  
G. Marocco, M. Mottica, C. Ostorero, A. Pavarani, O. Piersanti,  
A. Polirpo, G. Patti, F. Pradotto, V. Roberto, S. Rustichelli,  
F. Raineri, A. Regis, P. Rossotto, P. Santoro, P. Strada,  
M. Teghille, R. Tosini, L. Terrasi, R. Veneri, D. Vettorato

Payload Industrial Sub-Contractors:

**Carl Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany**  
Spherical and Folding Mirrors, Relay Optics  
W. Egle

**CASA, Madrid, Spain**  
Payload External Baffles  
J. Larrauri

**CSEM, Neuchatel, Switzerland**  
Modulating Grid  
M. Roulet

**Dornier Satellitensysteme, Friedrichshafen, Germany**  
Mechanism Drive Electronics & Thermal Control Electronics  
W. Wlaka

**IAL, Liège, Belgium**  
Optical Ground Support Equipment and Payload Calibration  
C. Jamar

**LAS, Marseille, France**  
Optical Performance and Alignment  
M. Saisse, J.-Y. Le Gall

**Matra Marconi Space, Velizy, France**  
Optical Filters  
D. Laroche

**Matra Marconi Space, Velizy, France**  
Payload Structure  
J.-P. Allard

**Oerlikon-Contraves, Zurich, Switzerland**  
Flip-Flop Mechanisms  
M. Gygax

**REOSC, St Pierre du Perray, France**  
Beam Combiner  
R. Geyl

**SRON, Utrecht, The Netherlands**  
Detection Subsystem  
R. Hoekstra

**TPD-TNO, Delft, The Netherlands**  
Refocusing Assembly, Grid Calibration, Straylight Analysis  
M. Hammerschlag†, H.J. van Agthoven

† deceased

## Spacecraft Industrial Sub-Contractors (at Subsystem Level):

**British Aerospace, Bristol, United Kingdom**

Electrical Power and Harness

R.H.W. Fox

**Daimler-Benz Aerospace (formerly MBB-ERNO), Bremen, Germany**

Structure and Reaction Control

J. Thaeter

**Fokker Space and Systems, Leiden, The Netherlands**

Solar Arrays

C.W. Claassens

**Fokker Space and Systems, Leiden, The Netherlands**

Thermal Control

T. Olievierse

**Matra Marconi Space, Velizy, France**

Attitude and Orbit Control

R. Cau

**Saab-Ericsson Space, Gotenborg, Sweden**

Data Handling and Telecommunications

B. Lind

**SEP - Société Européenne de Propulsion, Moissy, France**

Apogee Boost Motor

W. Asad

## Software Industrial Sub-Contractors:

**CAPTEC, Dublin, Ireland**

In-Orbit Payload Calibration

F. Kennedy

**Logica UK, London, United Kingdom**

Accuracy Assessment

P.E. Davies

