



European Space Research
and Technology Centre
Keplerlaan 1
2201 AZ Noordwijk
The Netherlands
T +31 (0)71 565 6565
F +31 (0)71 565 6040
www.esa.int

Prof. Nikolaos K.Spyrou
Professor of Astronomy
ESA PB-HME National Delegate for Greece
Aristoteleion University of Thessaloniki
School of Physics - Department of
Astrophysics, Astronomy and Mechanics
GR-541 24 Thessaloniki
Greece

Noordwijk, 11 October 2010

D/HSF/2010-4112

Subject: Naming ATV “Aristarchos of Samos”

Dear Prof. Spyrou,

I thank you for your letter of 25 May 2010 and your accompanying proposal for naming the ATV-4 after Aristarchos of Samos, the famous Ancient-Greek Ionian philosopher, astronomer and geometer.

I found your proposal stimulating and well documented, providing Aristarchos of Samos with the proper recognition for his discoveries and original ideas. As the PB-HME National Delegate of Greece, you certainly know that ESA is presently consolidating its participation in the International Space Station programme in view of the decision to extend its lifetime until 2020. This reassessment will most probably bring a revision on the launch schedule of the ATV-4. The implication of the above is that ESA is not planning to solicit naming suggestions for ATV-4 in the immediate future, but when such a procedure is decided, I will let you know.

In the meantime I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation for your proposal that reminds us how valuable the Greek contribution has been to the development of modern cosmology and of European culture in general, and restores the historical scientific truth concerning the paternity of the heliocentric theory exclusively by Aristarchos of Samos.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Di Pippo', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Simonetta Di Pippo