The Mission
• 3.5 yrs nominal lifetime (goal 5 yrs).
• Sun-synchronous orbit (~100 mins), LTAN 6AM, altitude 700km.
• Shared launch on Soyuz from Kourou, French Guiana.
• Launch planned before the end of the year.

Observing time
• Up to 10% of time top-sliced for spacecraft activities and monitoring & characterisation programme.
• Remainder split 80:20 between Guaranteed Time Observing (GTO) + Guest Observers (GO) Programme → 1578 hrs/946 orbits available to Community in first yr.

Guaranteed Time Observing Programme (GTO)
• Belongs to, and defined by, CHEOPS Science Team.
• Core target list covers 3.5 yrs → targets reserved: frozen at the time of GO calls, updated in between.

Ground-based transit surveys eg. Next Generation Transit Survey

Guest Observers Programme (20%): Any science, however GTO targets blocked

Ground-based RV surveys eg. HARPS, HARPS-N, HIRES, SOPHIE, ESPRESSO (2017)

TESS candidates, Kepler’s/K2

Guaranteed Time Observing Programme (GTO)

ESa Guest Observers’ Programme (GO)
• Managed by ESA, open to all.
• Competitive selection process via Announcements of Opportunity (AOs), foreseen to be annual.
  • AO-1 closed May 2019; results out end July.
  • Any science using CHEOPS capabilities can be proposed
  • Reserved targets blocked to GO.
  • Up to 25% of GO time allocated to Discretionary Programme (DT) → rapid response for targets of very high scientific interest → open all yr round → enables targets discovered between calls to be proposed.

Observing
• Broadband photometer (0.33 – 1.1 µm).
• Pointed observations of individual targets (defocused).
• 1 min cadence (stacked images); unstacked imagettes also available.

CHEOPS data
• All science data pipeline-processed at the Science Operations Centre (SOC) @ UGeneva (CH).
• Data products include calibrated/corrected images and light curves/time series, together with raw data.
• Calibration/reference files + descriptions of algorithms will be available through the CHEOPS archive.

CHEOPS data access
• Available through CHEOPS data archive, hosted by SOC. 
• GTO and GO data subject to same proprietary period on a per target basis:
  - 1 year after last observation of target completed.
  - No longer than 1.5 years after first visit.
• Proprietary period of DT up to that of GTO/GO.

Applying for time on CHEOPS
• Two-stage application process:
  - Phase 1: scientific + technical justification, targets, time request (ESA proposal submission tool).
  - Phase 2 (successful proposals): observation requests.
  • Proposal preparation tools developed by Consortium: Exposure Time Calculator, reserved target list checker, target visibility maps/feasibility checker, Observers Manual.

More information?
• Details on AO-1 (now closed) available at: https://cosmos.esa.int/web/cheops-guest-observers-programme/ao-1
• Next opportunity through DT: opens early 2020 (TBC).
• Timeline for AO-2 to be announced in coming months.

Further information on CHEOPS at http://cosmos.esa.int/web/cheops and http://cheops.unibe.ch

Contact ESA project scientist: kate.isaak@esa.int

1. Instrument in the cleanroom at UBern, shortly before shipping to ADS, Spain, Credit UBern; 2. CHEOPS spacecraft in the final stages of integration at ADS, Spain, Credit ADS
3. Restricted visibility only of the Kepler fields.