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The Changing-Atmosphere Infra-Red Tomography Explorer (CAIRT) Earth Explorer 11 candidate mission

Bernd Funke¹, Martyn Chipperfield², Quentin Errera³, Felix Friedl-Vallon⁴, Sophie Godin-Beekmann⁵, Michael Hoepfner⁴, Alex Hoffmann⁶, Alizee Malavart⁶, Scott Osprey⁷, Inna Polichtchouk⁸, Peter Preusse⁹, Piera Raspollini¹⁰, Björn-Martin Sinnhuber⁴, Pekka Verronen^{11,12}, and Kaley Walker¹³

¹Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía (CSIC), Glorieta de la Astronomía, Granada, Spain (bernd@iaa.es)

²University of Leeds, Leeds, UK

³Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy, Belgium

⁴Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany

⁵Sorbonne Université LATMOS/IPSL, Paris, France

⁶ESA ESTEC, The Netherlands

⁷University of Oxford, UK

⁸ECMWF, UK

⁹Forschungszentrum Juelich, Germany

¹⁰IFAC/CNR, Italy

¹¹University of Oulu, Finland

¹²Finnish Meteorological Institute, Finland

¹³University of Toronto, Canada

The Changing-Atmosphere Infra-Red Tomography Explorer (CAIRT) is currently in Phase A as one of two final candidates for ESA's Earth Explorer 11. As a Fourier transform infrared limb imager, CAIRT will observe simultaneously from the middle troposphere to the lower thermosphere at high spectral resolution and with unprecedented horizontal and vertical resolution. With this, CAIRT will provide critical information on (a) atmospheric gravity waves, circulation and mixing, (b) coupling with the upper atmosphere, solar variability and space weather and, (c) aerosols and pollutants in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere. In this presentation we will give an overview of CAIRT's science goals and the expected mission performance, based on latest results from feasibility studies performed during Phase 0.