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Preface

K. Zwintz¹

1. Conference Chair

1 Preface

In 2016 the BRITE-Constellation mission had been operational for more than two years. At that time, several hundreds of bright stars of various types had been observed successfully in the two BRITE filters and astonishing new discoveries had been made.

Therefore, the time was ripe to host the “Second BRITE-Constellation Science Conference: Small satellites — big science” from August 22 to 26, 2016, in the beautiful Madonnensaal of the University of Innsbruck, Austria. With this conference, we brought together the scientific community interested in BRITE-Constellation, provided an update on the status of the mission, presented and discussed latest scientific results, shared our experiences with the data, illustrated successful cooperations between professional and amateur ground-based observers and BRITE scientists, and explored new ideas for future BRITE-Constellation observations.

With our 60 international participants we had a wonderful week with lots of interesting science, a meeting with Austrian and German amateur observers, a short hike in the Alps, a guided tour through the historic city of Innsbruck and an enjoyable conference dinner. A few pictures distributed in this book illustrate our delightful experiences and will help us to keep the good memories.

I would like to thank all participants for their active contributions to the success of the conference and my team for their energy and support assisting me in all organizational matters before and during the conference.

In particular I would like to thank the Vice-rector of Research of the University of Innsbruck, Prof. Sabine Schindler, the Trade Commissioner of the Canadian Embassy in Austria, Mag. Verena Wasenegger, and the representative of the Aeronautics and Space Agency of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency, (FFG) Mag. Ludwig Hofer, for their participation.

The proceedings of this conference have been reviewed by several members of the BRITE-Constellation Executive Science Team (BEST) to whom I am very grateful. Therefore, I would especially like to thank Gerald Handler, Tony Moffat, Slavek Rucinski, Gregg Wade and Werner Weiss for their time dedicated to act as referees for all proceedings contributions.

Special thanks also go to Ennio Poretti who did a large part of the editing and reviewing of the articles; without his contribution these proceedings would not have been possible.

It was a pleasure to host the conference and welcome everyone in the beautiful city of Innsbruck!

Konstanze Zwintz, *Conference Chair*



Fig. 1: Conference picture.



Fig. 2: From top left to bottom: Prof. Sabine Schindler, Mag. Verena Wasenegger and Mag. Ludwig Hofer opening the conference.



Fig. 3: Abstract book and small conference gifts.