

Tuesday 15th Feb 2011

Diamond Light Source

Dr David Price, Diamond Communication Team & Unravelling Science



Diamond generates extremely intense pin point beams of synchrotron light of exceptional quality, ranging from X-rays, ultra violet to infra-red. For example, Diamond's X-rays are around 100 billion times brighter than a standard hospital X-ray machine or 10 billion times brighter than the Sun.

Many of the everyday commodities that we take for granted, from food manufacturing to cosmetics, from revolutionary drugs to surgical tools, from computers to mobile phones, have all been developed or improved using synchrotron light.

Dr Price will talk about the science behind how Diamond manages to create such bright light and will discuss some of the recent experiments that have been performed.

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Tuesday 8th March 2011

The Science of Armageddon

Jay Tate, Spaceguard

The Science of Armageddon takes a look at the threat posed to us by impacts from space, and in particular focuses on asteroids and comets as near Earth objects (NEOs). NEOs are probably the only global threat to life on Earth that are predictable and avoidable using current technologies. However, the international community still choose to largely ignore the threat. In this talk, Jay Tate (Director of the Spaceguard Centre), will look at where the threat originates from, what we can do to detect these objects using robotic telescopes, and how we would resolve the issue should a potential impactor be found. The talk will be followed by a demonstration of a small robotic telescope of the kind that anyone could purchase and control from a desktop or laptop computer.



Please note that tea and coffee will be provided from 7 pm in the Tea Room of the Poynting building. Tickets for the Christmas lecture can be obtained free of charge from l.long@bham.ac.uk or by writing to Lynne Long, School of Physics and Astronomy, The University of Birmingham, B15 2TT. The lecture programme can also be found on our web site <http://www.ph.bham.ac.uk/schools> Up to date details and maps of the University can be found on the University web site www.location.bham.ac.uk