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How best to make space data audible

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You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

Part 1 tells you the purpose of this study and what will happen to you if you take part. Part 2 gives you more detailed information about the conduct of the study

Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

Thank you for reading this.

What is the purpose of the study?

Our sense of sound can be a powerful tool in exploring and analysing data collected from satellites. But what is the best way to make this data audible? That is what this study from Imperial College London is trying to determine.

Why have I been invited?

We are asking for input from communities with relevant expertise (including Audio, Citizen Science, Music, Public Engagement, and Science Communication) to help us choose the best method of making space data audible.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

What do I have to do?

You will be asked to anonymously provide your opinions on various audio clips of data from space.

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What will happen to me if I take part?

The survey should take no more than 10 minutes and you will only need to fill it out once. Responses will be collected over the period of a month.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

Risks of participation are minimal. There is a minor risk that the volume of the sound clips may be too loud initially. Therefore, we advise you to lower the sound level on your device initially and only increase the volume if it is safe to do so.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The data collected will be totally anonymised and then analysed, therefore you will not be identifiable. The results will be written up into a publication providing recommendations for space scientists to use in science communication, public engagement, and citizen science. This will be done within a year of the data collection. Upon publication we will share the paper with the email lists and social media accounts that we used to publicise this study.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This research is being funded by UK Research and Innovation, in particular the Science and Technology Facilities Council and Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, through a Stephen Hawking Fellowship.

Who has reviewed the study?

The Principal Investigator has obtained approval from the Head of Department and from the Research Governance and Integrity Team (RGIT). This is a low risk study and will not need to go to the committee, only RGIT review.

Contact for Further Information

If you would like further information please contact Dr Martin Archer, Stephen Hawking Fellow in Space Physics at Imperial College London via m.archer10@imperial.ac.uk or +44 20 7594 47661.

Thank you for your help! You can keep a copy of this written information and consent form.