

PACS Newsletter
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Fig. 1: Snapshots of the PACS Test Optics alignment during a very critical moment

Status of PACS

The final preparations for the start of the FM ILT were delayed a bit because of some problems in the area of alignment/test optic/documentation and the construction of additional shims. This week the integration into the cryostat shall be finished, together with a few other activities (cooling straps attachment, connector modifications, continuity check of the harness). On September 26 there will be tests of the bolometer by experts from CEA, using their Local Test Unit (LTU).

FM ILT and Schedule

Due to these delays we did not start the Short Functional Tests Warm on Monday. SFT warm will be performed – according to current planning – on Wednesday, September 27. The further steps depend on the still uncertain DECMEC FM delivery date. Project has already agreed that the thermal vacuum tests and the vibration of the DECMEC FM can be done later (after ILT), but this still has to be discussed with CSL and PRODEX. In any case the DECMEC FM will not arrive at MPE earlier than ~ October 10. After the SFT Warm we will either wait for the delivery of the DECMEC FM, or cool down and do cold tests with the DECMEC EQM until the DECMEC FM arrives.

A new ILT schedule will be made available as soon as possible. Clearly, the delivery to ESA will be delayed. Currently the envisaged delivery date is mid February 2007.

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