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Exploring the transient sky with the SVOM mission

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I will present the SVOM mission that the Chinese National Space Agency and the French Space Agency have decided to jointly implement for a launch in autumn 2022. In the line of Swift, SVOM has been designed to detect, characterize and quickly localize gamma-raybursts (GRBs) and other types of high-energy transients. For this task, the spacecraft will carry two widefieldhigh-energy instruments: ECLAIRs, a hard X-ray imager, and the Gamma-Ray Monitor, a broadband spectrometer. Upon localizing a transient, SVOM will quickly slew towards the source and start deep follow-up observations with two narrow-field telescopes: the Micro-channel X-ray Telescope in X-rays and the Visible Telescope in the visible. The originality of SVOM is to have a set of instruments deployed on the ground to complete the measurements made in space. i.e. a Wide Angle Camera and two dedicated ground robotic telescopes. The nearly anti-solar pointing of SVOM combined with the fast transmission of GRB positions to the ground thanks to a VHF antenna network will facilitate the observations of SVOM transients by the largest ground based telescopes. All this together makes SVOM a powerful time domain machine.

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