



Dr Fred Jansen: Senior Mission Manager for Gaia, European Space Agency

Dr Fred Jansen works for the European Space Agency (ESA). He studied astrophysics at Amsterdam University, the Netherlands. During his studies, he participated in a joint Leiden University/MIT programme that launched a balloon-borne set of X-ray detectors to observe the Universe.

He received his PhD from Leiden University in 1988, with a thesis on X-ray observations of supernova remnants (the hot and bright remains of exploded stars).

After his PhD, he worked on the development of one of the X-ray instruments for ESA's XMM-Newton space observatory. In 1995, he joined ESA and was appointed project scientist for this mission shortly afterwards. After the launch of XMM-Newton, he also became the mission manager for this project.

Following the launches of Mars Express and Venus Express in 2003 and 2005, he also became mission manager for these projects. He left XMM-Newton in 2006 temporarily to work as interim project scientist for ESA's Gaia mission.

In 2013, Fred became mission manager for ESA's Rosetta mission to rendezvous and land on a comet. He served here from June 2013 to February 2015, covering the critical periods of hibernation exit, comet approach, landing and post-landing operations.

Following his Rosetta duties, he became mission manager of Gaia and, in mid-2017, he left XMM-Newton as mission manager to focus fully on Gaia, ESA's 'Billion Star Surveyor'.

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